

THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 1517.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1856.

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KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—The Office of JUNIOR LECTURER in MATHEMATICS will shortly be open, and the Council are now ready to receive APPLICATIONS from Gentlemen desirous of offering themselves for the appointment.—For particulars apply to
November 17, 1856.
J. W. CUNNINGHAM, Secretary.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—LECTURES on POLITICAL ECONOMY, by PROFESSOR W. J. FOX, A.M., Fellow of the College, a Course of about 20 Lectures, commenced on Thursday, 20th November.

Subjects:—Production and Distribution of Wealth, including Principles of Population, and Theories of Wages, Profits, and Rent; Theory of Value—Money, Credit, including Principles of Exchange, Currency, Foreign Trade, Taxation, Public Debt.

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DAVID MASSON, A.M., Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Laws.

CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The next General Meeting will be held at the Society's house in Bouverie-street, on Tuesday, November 25, on which occasion there will be a special EXHIBITION OF FRUIT.

Visitors can only be admitted by the order of a Fellow or Candidate.

The rooms will be open to Visitors at 1 p.m. The Chair will be taken at 9 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION.—All

DRAWINGS must be DELIVERED AT THE GALLERIES, BUPHILL-STREET, on the 1st and 2nd of DECEMBER, 1856, and at 1, St. James's-street, on the 1st and 2nd of DECEMBER, 1856, producing a friend to, or transferring their tickets for the Lectures. Seven tickets will be Half-a-Crown, as before.

JAS. FERGUSON, F.R.A.S., Jun.

Stockwell-green, 13th Nov. 1856.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

"KING'S SCHOLARSHIPS."

THE EXAMINATION of CANDIDATES for the TWO KING'S SCHOLARSHIPS, one Male and one Female, vacated at Christmas, will take place at the Academy on SATURDAY, 20th of December next.

Candidates whose age must not be under Twelve, nor exceeding Eighteen years, will send in their names and addresses to the Secretary at the Academy, accompanied by the recommendation of a Subscriber to the Institution, on or before the 13th of December. The Certificate of Birth must be produced previous to the Candidate being allowed to compete for a Scholarship.

(By Order of the Committee.)

Royal Academy of Music, Stockwell-green, 13th Nov. 1856.

M. R. BENNETT'S NEW LECTURE.—

MR. WOMEN and WATCH WORK.—MR. JOHN BENNETT, F.R.A.S., Member of the National Academy of Paris, will deliver his New Lecture at the following Institutions, before Christmas:—1st, Royal Institution, 2nd, Royal Society, 3rd, Royal Society of Arts, 1st, Bethnal Green; 2nd, Stratford; 4th, Ashford; 5th, Uxbridge; 6th, Greenwich. The Lecture is illustrated by a great variety of Models, Diagrams, and Syllabuses. Specimens of Clocks and Watches can be procured at the Institutions, or at the Watch Manufactury, 65, Cheapside.

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Great need of new occupations for Women in London.

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How they may be advantageously engaged in London as now in Swiss Watch-work.

Beneficial Results—Commercial, Social and Moral.

INDIAN DIRECT INFANTRY APPOINTMENTS.—With the sanction of the Hon. the Court of Directors, CLASSES will be formed at the Military College, ADDISCOMBE, during the ensuing Christmas and Midsummer Vacations, to prepare for Examination Gentlemen who have received, or may receive, Nominations to Direct Infantry Appointments. For further information apply to J. T. Hyde, Esq., Addiscombe, Surrey.

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By order, HENRY GREY, Secretary.

Stockwell-green, 13th Nov. 1856.

Goss's Handbook to the Marine Aquarium, 2nd edit. p. 21.

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REVIEWS

Aurora Leigh. By Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Chapman & Hall.

Our best living English poetess—our greatest English poetess of any time—has essayed in ‘*Aurora Leigh*’ to blend the epic with the didactic novel. The medium in which the story floats is that impassioned language—spotted and flowered with the imagery suggested by fancy or stored up by learning,—which has given the verse of Mrs. Browning a more fiery acceptance from the young and spiritual, and heretofores gained.

We dwell on the sex of the author of ‘*Aurora Leigh*’ in no disrespectful spirit of comparison, but simply because to overlook it is rendered impossible by the poetess herself. ‘*Aurora Leigh*,’ into which she says “have entered her highest convictions upon Life and Art,” is her contribution to the chorus of protest and mutual exhortation, which Woman is now raising, in hope of gaining the due place and sympathy which, it is held, have been denied to her since the days when Man was created, the first of the pair in Eden. Who can quarrel with the intent? Who would silence any struggle made by those who fancy themselves desolate, oppressed, undervalued,—to unlock the prison-doors,—to melt the heart of injustice? Mrs. Browning is never unwomanly in her passionate pleadings for women: unwomanly she could not be, after having wrought out that beautiful and tender conception of Eve, which gives such peculiar grace to her ‘*Drama of Exile*.’ Her Confession (for like all works of its class, ‘*Aurora Leigh*’ has in it a tone of confession,) amounts to an admission of failure: its conclusion is that indicated from another point of view by Mrs. Hemans, in her ‘*Properzia Rossi*.’ The moral is the insufficiency of Fame and Ambition, be either ever so generous, to make up for the absence of Love:—a class-vindication wound up by an appeal against class-separation. Thus, as in all the works of its kind, which women have so freely poured out from their full hearts during late years, we see the agony more clearly than the remedy. We are shown, at first, restlessness disdaining quiet; till, fevered and forlorn, as time and grief do their work, the restless heart ends in courting the very repose it so scorned when first tendered. But while Truth closes the tale, in its progress Imagination has been strained beyond permissible freedom. In brief, we regret to declare that Mrs. Browning’s longest and most matured effort, jewelled though it be with rich thought and rare fancies, is in its argument unnatural, and in its form infelicitous.

Aurora Leigh is a born poetess, the child of an English father and an Italian mother,—on the father’s side connected with wealth and old name. She is sent over to England, when an orphan, to be cared for and educated by a maiden aunt,—that well-worn spectral apparition of convention in buckram, without which no tale of woman’s aspirations, it seems, can be told. Such persons, whose narrow capacities bring on limited views of duty, have been long abused; but their time, it appears, has not yet come. Meanwhile, they serve their turn with those who make fantastic panoramas of life. Without such aunts (grim substitute for the stepmother of ancient romance!) no woman of genius could be cradled into poetry through wrong; and Mrs. Browning only adopts a convention in denouncing convention. Aurora is wooed by her cousin, Romney Leigh,

a rich, high-hearted philanthropist, to whom her heart is not disinclined. But he is too big in the consciousness of his own philanthropy; and waywardly she conceives the idea that she is asked to become his wife in a strain of persuasion unworthy the ear of a great and gifted woman,—that she is sought from low motives, (as, indeed, are most wives,) and that her career, as an unassisted and independent woman of genius, will be brighter if she retains her heart in her own keeping. Accordingly Aurora rejects Romney as a husband,—spurns his generous attempts to smooth the path of life for her by tendering a share of the family fortune. Putting on poverty as a singing robe, she adopts authorship in London, becomes famous and admired, and dwells like a star apart. Foiled of his object, Romney Leigh embraces his plans of social reforms with an earnestness, in which there is the intoxication of a wounded spirit as much as the conviction of one called to the priest’s office. He opens a phalanstery, affects only the society of the sick, sorrowful, or guilty, and, willing to attest his superiority to class prejudice by the most solemn act a man can do, prepares to marry one Marian Erle, a milliner’s apprentice,—who is humble, ignorant, but as devoted and as noble in her way as either Romney or Aurora. The latter (in spite of her having begun to discover that she had made a mistake in rejecting her cousin, and in fancying that fame could supply the place of love) seeks out Marian. The girl’s story is powerfully told, but is unreal in the poetry and holiness of nature it reveals in one nurtured, tortured, and beset as she has been. Such resistance as hers must have hardened the victim in the struggle,—whereas Marian is soft as a briar-rose, besides being pure as the dew-bead on it. Aurora welcomes and embraces her with enthusiastic devotion. Not so other of Romney’s female friends. A wicked influence is at work against the poor sempstress:—a woman of fashion, one Lady Waldemar, who has fallen in love with Romney Leigh, (and for his sake, with Christian socialism) so practises upon Marian, that on the appointed wedding-day, when St. Giles and St. James are bidden to church to see the Socialist gentleman married (a parade somewhat insolent in its condescension), the bride is not forthcoming, but in her place a mysterious letter. Instead of the bridal revel, where Rank and Rags were to sit at the same board, there is a brawl in the church:—Marian is gone—no one knows whither.

As years roll on, Aurora’s authorship prospers. She is praised in the reviews—she is a lion in London *soirées*; and from not any of the most common-place and frivolous of these transactions, with all their train of prosaic and poverty-stricken adjuncts, does our artist shrink as a subject for art. Nevertheless, Aurora finds out that she is alone in spirit after all; and more stung than she cares to own, by a rumour in the *coterie* that Cousin Romney is about to marry this evil Lady Waldemar, she resolves to give up England for a time, and go home to Italy. On her way—in Paris—she lights on Marian, now the unwedded mother of a beautiful boy, and learns from her the sequel to her story: how Lady Waldemar had not only detached her from the noble gentleman who would have married her; had not only, as we have seen, prevailed on her to give up Cousin Romney; but, under pretext of sending her out to the Colonies, had allowed her to fall into the hands of an infamous woman, by whom Marian—herself innocent—was forced into ruin. In this hideous page of the romance Mrs. Browning puts forth all her power. Aurora at once takes the outraged Marian to her heart, carries her

off with her child to Italy, and writes home her disclosure of Lady Waldemar’s machinations—in order that it may reach Romney. After them, in due course of time, he arrives. By the old trick, well worn in novels and plays, Aurora receives him, under the misapprehension that he is Lady Waldemar’s husband; but he presently assures her that, so far from being so, he has come to Italy still to marry Marian, and to adopt the child of violence and misery as his own. Once more, however, and this time unprompted by all except her own nature, Marian refuses to marry Romney;—assuring him that she does not love him now; that indeed she never did love him as he deserved to be loved; that she will live for her child, and no creature else: and it is in this crisis that Aurora and Romney at last come to an understanding. The artist has found the hollowness of Art to fill and to satisfy; and the philanthropist’s experiences are drearier still. He has been rewarded for his care for the vile and the humble by having his father’s house burnt over his head—in the catastrophe having lost his sight, it is hinted, owing to the vengeance of Marian’s reprobate father.

Such is a brief sketch of the argument of ‘*Aurora Leigh*;’ and not a few who read it will be tempted to say, This looks not like a poem, but a novel, belonging to the period which has produced ‘*Ruth*,’ and ‘*Villette*,’ and ‘*The Blithedale Romance*.’ We will not stop to ask how far the invention be true to life and to art; since the form of its presentment may be pleaded in excuse for anything unreal in character, false in sentiment, or exaggerated in incident, which exists in the plot and the persons working it out. But what are we to say if we waive purpose—if we do not discuss the wisdom of the form selected (large concessions these, yet due to one so gifted and so passionately in earnest as Mrs. Browning)—if we treat ‘*Aurora Leigh*’ as a poetical romance? Simply, that we have no experience of such a mingling of what is precious with what is mean—of the voice of clarion and the lyric cadence of harp with the cracked school-room spinet—of tears and small-talk—of eloquent apostrophe and astute speculation—of the grandeur of passion and the pettiness of modes and manners—as we find in these nine books of blank verse. Milton’s organ is put by Mrs. Browning to play polkas in May-Fair drawing-rooms, and fitted out by her with its *Aesthetic Review* stop, which drones out lengths and strains of a strange quality. But it yields, too, beneath her fingers those glorious chords and melodies, which (musicians have fancied) are the real occupation and utterance of that instrument. Is this severe? Let any one that thinks so take the following commencement of the scene in the church at Romney’s interrupted wedding as a passage from a poem:

We waited. It was early: there was time
For greeting, and the morning’s compliment;
And gradually a ripple of women’s talk
Arose and fell, and tossed about a spray
Of English as soft as a silent bush.
And, notwithstanding, quite as audible
As louder phrases thrown out by the men.
“Yes, really, if we’ve need to wait in church,
We’ve need to talk there,” “She? ‘Tis Lady Ayr,
In blue—not purple! that’s the dowager.”
“She looks as young,” “She flirts as young, you mean!
Why if you had seen her upon Thursday night,
You’d call Miss Norris modest,” “You again!
I waited with you three hours back. Up at six,
Up still at ten: scarce time to change one’s shoes.
I feel as white and sulky as a ghost,
So pray don’t speak to me, Lord Belcher.” “No,
I’ll look at you instead, and it’s enough
While you have that face.” “In church, my lord! fie, fie!”
“Adair, you stayed for the Division?” “Lost
By one.” “The devil it is! I’m sorry for ‘t.
And if I had not promised Mistress Grove..”
“You might have kept your word to Liverpool..”
“Constituents must remember, after all,
We’re mortal.” “We remind them of it.” “Hark,
The bride comes! Here she comes, in a stream of milk!”
“There? Dear, you are asleep still; don’t you know
The five Miss Granvilles? always dressed in white

To show they're ready to be married."—"Lower! The aunt is at your elbow!"—"Lady Maud, Did Lady Wald—mild as she had seen, This girl of Leigh's?"—"No—wait! 'twas Mrs. Brookes, Who told me Lady Waldemar told her—"No, 'twasn't Mrs. Brookes!"—"She's pretty!"—"Who? Mrs. Brookes?—Lady Waldemar?"—"How hot! Pray is't the law to-day we're not to breathe? You're treading on my shawl—I thank you, sir!"—"They say the bride's a mere child, who can't read, But knows the things she should, with wide-awake Great eyes. I'd go through fire to look at her."—"You do, I think?"—"And Lady Leighmar (You hear her, sitting close to Romney Leigh; How beautiful she looks, a little flushed!) Has taken up the girl, and organized Leigh's folly. Should I have come here, you suppose, Except she'd asked me?"—"She'd have served him more By marrying him herself."—"Ah—there she comes, The bride, at last!"—"Indeed, no. Past eleven. She puts off her patched petticoat to-day. And puts on May-fair manners, so begins By setting us to wait."

Surely the above is in the step of Mrs. Gore's prose, without its pungency. Or is the following more poetical?

Five acts to make a play.
And why not fifteen? why not seven?
What matter for the number of the leaves,
Supposing the tree lives and grows? exact
The literal unities of time and place,
When 'tis the essence of passion to ignore
Both time and place? Absurd. Keep up the fire,
And leave the generous flames to shape themselves.

'Aurora Leigh' contains too many pages as perversely trivial, too many passages as carelessly dry, as the above. We cannot forgive either the flippancy or the dreary disquisition from one like Mrs. Browning, when her theme, too, is of art and artists. Such are affectations, not discoveries. There is humanity even in May-Fair babble; there may be thought in criticism, be it ever so clear; but to bring *Mr. Yellowplush*, with his powder and calves, into a serious poem of grief and aspiration;—and when we would see *Corinna* to come upon a Gifford or Conder nibbling his pen for a succinct paragraph,—these things, we repeat, are novelties to which no diffusion of the new light will reconcile serious readers.

Why these fopperies and mistakes grieve us in Mrs. Browning we will show forthwith; for not one of her former works is richer in passages of power and beauty, in noble lines and lofty thoughts than 'Aurora Leigh.' The following is full of a half-severe, half-humorous observation, not exceeded by Cowper's most terse and true character in verse. Here is the being to whom the Italy-born Poetess was confided when arriving as a child in England.—

I think I see my father's sister stand Upon the hall-step of her country-house To give me welcome. She stood straight and calm, Her somewhat narrow forehead braided tight As if for taming accidental thoughts From possible pulse; brown hair pricked with grey By frigid use of life; she was not old, Although my father's elder by a year, A nose drawn sharply, yet in delicate lines; A close mild mouth, a little soured about The ends, through speaking unrequited loves, Or peradventure niggardly half-truths; Eyes of no colour,—once they might have smiled, But never, never have forgot themselves In smiling; cheeks, in which was yet a rose Of perished summers, like a rose in a book, Kept more for ruth than pleasure,—if past bloom, Fast fading also.

Next comes an apology, too (to use the word in its secondary sense), made by the artist for the direction of her studies, which is very graceful and tender.—

I read much. What my father taught before From many a volume, Love re-emphasised Upon the self-same pages: Theophrast Grew tender with the memory of his eyes, And 'Elian made mine wet. The trick of Greek And Latin, he had taught me, as he would Have taught me wrestling or the game of fives If such he had known,—most like a shipwrecked man Who heaps his single platter with goat's cheese And scarlet berries; or like any man Who loves but one, and so gives all at once, Because he has it, rather than because He counts it worthy. Thus, my father gave; And thus, as did the women formerly By young Achilles, when they pinned the veil Across the hoy's audacious front, and swept

With tuneful laughs the silver-fretted rocks, He wrapt his little daughter in his large Man's doublet, careless did it fit or no?

But, after I had read for memory, I read for hope. The path my father's foot Had trod me out, which suddenly broke off, (What time he dropped the wallet of the flesh And passed) alone I carried on, and set My child-heart 'gainst the thorny underwood, To reach the grassy shelter of the trees. Ah, babe! 'tis the wood, without a brother-babe! My own self-pity, like the red-breast bird, Flies back to cover all that past with leaves.

This, again, is charming.—

Many fervent souls Strike rhyme on rhyme, who would strike steel on steel If steel had offered, in a restless heat Of doing something. Many tender souls Have strung their losses on a rhyming thread, As children, cowslips:—the more pains they take, The work more withers. Young men, ay, and maids, Too often sow their wild oats in tame vine Before they sit down under their own vine And live for ever. Alas, near all the birds Will sing at dawn,—and yet we do not take The chattering swallow for the holy lark.

Here is a true strain of the poetry of London, taken from a later book of the poet's confessions.

So, happy and unafraid of solitude, I worked the short days out,—and watched the sun On lurid morns or monstrous afternoons, Like some Druidic idol's fiery base, With fixed unflickering outline of dead heat, In which the blood of wretches pent inside Seemed oozing forth to incarnadine the air,— Push out through fog with his dilated disk, And startle the plant roofs and chimney-pots With splash of fierce colour. Or I saw Fog over the great town, cloaking fog, Involve the passive city, strangle it Alive, and draw it off into the void, Spires, bridges, streets, and squares, as if a sponge Had wiped out London—or as noon and night Had clapped together and utterly struck out The intermediate time, undoing themselves In the act. Your city poets see such things, Not despicable. Mountains of the south, When, drunk and mad with elemental wines, They rend the seamless mist and stand up bare, Make fewer singers, haply. No one sings, Descending Sinai; or Parnassus mount: You take a mule to climb, and not a mule, Except in fable and figure: forests chant Their anthems to themselves, and leave you dumb. But sit in London, at the day's decline, And view the city perish in the mist Like Pharaoh's armaments in the deep Red Sea,— The chariots, horsemen, footmen, all the host, Sucked down, and choked to silence—then, surprised By a sudden sense of vision and of tune, You feel as conquerors though you did not fight, And you and Israel's other singing girls, Ay, Miriam with them, sing the song you choose.

The following, too, is eloquent in its sarcasm.

Distrust that word. "There is none good save God," said Jesus Christ. If He once, in the first creation-week, Called creatures good,—for ever, afterward, The Devil only has done it, and his heirs, The knaves who win us, and the fools who lose; The word's grown dangerous. In the middle age, I think they called malignant fays and imps Good people. A good neighbour, even in this, Is fatal sometimes,—cuts your morning up To mince-meat of the very smallest talk, Then helps to sugar her bones at night With your reputation. I have known good wives, As chaste, or nearly so, as Potiphar's; And good, good mothers, who would use a child To better an intrigue; good friends, beside, (Very good) who hung succinately round your neck And sucked your breath, as cats are failed to do By sleeping infants. And we all have known Good critics, who have stamped out poet's hopes; Good statesmen, who pulled ruin on the state; Good patriots, who, for a theory, risked a cause; Good kings, who disembowelled for a tax; Good popes, who brought all good to jeopardy; Good Christians, who sat still in easy chairs, And damned the general world for standing up—Now, may the good God pardon all good men!

How bitterly I speak,—how certainly The innocent white milk in us is turned, By much persistent shining of the sun!— Shake up the sweetest in us long enough With men, it drops to foolish curd, too sour To feed the most tender of Christ's lambs.

We have spoken of the passion thrown into the frightful story of Marian Erle. What we now cite will explain itself.—

"And you call it being lost, That down came next day's noon and caught me there Both gibbering and half raving on the floor, And wondering what had happened up in heaven, That suns should dare to shine when God himself Was certainly abolished."

"I was mad, How many weeks, I know not,—many weeks."

I think they let me go, when I was mad.

They feared my eyes and loosed me, as boys might A mad dog which they had tortured. Up and down I went by road and village, over tracts Of open foreign country, large and strange, Crossed everywhere by long thin poplar-lines Like fingers of some ghastly skeleton Hand Through sunlight and through moonlight evermore Pushed out from hell itself to pluck me back, And resolve to get me, slow and sure; While every roadside Christ upon his cross Hung reddening through his gory wounds at me, And shook his nails in anger, and came down To follow a mile after, wading up The low vines and green wheat, crying, 'Take the girl! She's none of mine from henceforth.' Then, I knew, (But this is somewhat dimmer than the rest) The charitable peasants gave me bread And leave to sleep in straw: and twice they tied, At parting, Mary's image round my neck— How heavy it seemed! as heavy as a stone! A woman has been strangled with less weight: I threw it in a ditch to keep it clean And ease my breath a little, when none looked; I did not need such safeguards:—brutal men Stopped short, Miss Leigh, in insult, when they had seen My face,—I must have had an awful look."

Two Florentine pictures; the first in the open air.—

I rode once to the little mountain-house As fast as if to find my father there, But, when in sight of it, within fifty yards, I dropped my horse's bridle on his neck And paused upon his flank. The house's front Was case with lingots of ripe Indian corn In tesselated order, and device Of golden patterns: not a stone of wall Uncovered,—not an inch of room to grow A vine-leaf. The old porch had disappeared; And, in the open doorway, sate a girl At a table, with her black hair strained away To a scarlet kerchief caught beneath her chin In Tuscan fashion,—her full sun eyes, Which looked too hard to be lifted so, Still drop and lifted toward the mulberry-tree On which the lads were busy with their staves In shout and laughter, stripping all the boughs As bare as winter, of those summer leaves My father had not changed for all the silk In which the ugly silkworms hide themselves. Enough. My horse receded before my heart—I turned the rein abruptly. Back we went As fast, to Florence.

The second an interior.—

Musing so, I walked the narrow unrecognizing streets, Where many a palace from peers dimly Through stony viscous iron-barred, (presumed Allike, should foy or lover pass that way, For guest or victim,) and came wandering out Upon the churches with mild open doors And plaintive wail of vespers, where a few, Those chiefly women, sprinkled round in blots Upon the dusky pavement, knelt and prayed Toward the altar's silver glory. Off a ray (I liked to sit and watch) would tremble out, Just touch some face more lifted, more in need, Of course a woman's—while I dreamed a tale To fit its fortunes. There was one who looked As if the earth had suddenly grown too large For such a little humpbacked thing as she; The pitiful black kerchief round her neck Sole proof she had a mother. One, again, Looked sick for love,—seemed praying some soft saint To put more virtue in the new fine scarf She spent a fortnight's meals on, yesterday, That cruel Gigi might return his eyes From Giuliana. There was one, so old, So old, to kneel grew easier than to stand,— So solitary, she accepts at last Our Lady for her gossip, and frets on Against the sinful world which goes its rounds In marrying and being married, just the same As when 'twas almost good and had the right, (Her Gian alive, and she herself eighteen). And yet, now even, if Madonna willed, She'd win a torn in Thursday's lottery, And better all things.

Ere we close it we will show a few of the happy touches with which this book is full.—

For even prosa men, who wear grief long, Will get to wear it as a hat aside With a flower stuck in'.

I used him for a friend Before I ever knew him for a friend. 'Twas better, 'twas worse also, afterward: We came so close, we saw our differences Too intimately.

But I could not hide My quickening inner life from those at watch. They saw a light at a window now and then They had not set there. Who had set it there?

We talked on fast, while every common word Seemed tangled with the thunder at one end, And ready to pull down upon our heads A terror out of sight. And yet to pause Were surlier mortal: we tore greedily up All silence, all the innocent breathing-points,

As if, like pale conspirators in haste,
We tore up papers where our signatures
Imperilled us to an ugly shame or death.

The last of all our quotations are taken almost from the last pages—from the last explosion of long-pent passion, when the Poetess confesses that her life has been a failure, and lays her love in the arms of him who has been hungering and thirsting for it so many a weary day.—

Could I see his face,

I wept so? Did I drop against his breast,
Or did his arms constrain me? Were my cheeks
Hot, overfilled, with my tears, or his?
And which of our two large explosive hearts
So shook me? That, I know not.

* * *

What he said,

I fain would write. But if an angel spoke
In thunder, should we, haply, know much more
Than that it thundered? If a cloud came down
And wrapt us wholly, could we draw its shape,
As if on the outside, and not overcome?

* * *

But oh, the night! oh, bitter-sweet! oh, sweet!
O dark! O moon and stars, O ecstasy
Of darkness! Great mystery of love,—
In which absorbed, loss, anguish, treason's self
Enlarges rapture,—as a pebble drop
In some full wine-cup, over-brims the wine!
While we two sat together, leaned that night
So close, my very garments crept and thrilled
With strange electric life; and both my cheeks
Grew red, then pale, with touches from my hair
In which his breath was; while the golden moon
Was hung before our faces as the badge
Of some sublime inherited despair,
Since ever to be seen by only one.

Here we must hand over 'Aurora Leigh' to those who will wonder at, or decry, or enthusiastically commend, or pass over the differences and discords of the tale; for it will have readers of all the four classes. To some it will be so much rank foolishness,—to others almost a scriptural revelation. The huge mistake of its plan, the disdain of selectness in its details, could not be exhausted were we to write for column and column,—nor would page on page suffice to contain the high thoughts, the deep feelings, the fantastic images showered over the tale with the authority of a prophetess, the grace of a muse, the prodigality of a queen. Such a poem, we dare aver, has never before been written by woman; and if our apprehension of its discords and discrepancies has been keen and expressed without measure, it is because our admiration of its writer's genius, and our sympathy with the nobility of her purpose, are also keen and without measure.

Confessions of an English Opium-Eater. By Thomas De Quincey. Edinburgh, Hogg; London, Groombridge & Sons.

THE 'Confessions of an Opium-Eater' is not before us for review. One of the most original and delicious books in our language, it long ago passed over the burning ploughshares, and the present generation of readers will take it up to laugh, to wonder and to weep, happily unconscious of literary flecks and flaws. Why then stop to criticize—even though the critical eye is arrested by the line on the title-page, 'Confessions of an English Opium-Eater, now first carefully revised by the author and much enlarged'? We cannot do it. We love the book and love the writer—whom, nevertheless, we have never seen in the flesh. We retrace with him, in deep admiration and humility, the dark and glorious scenes of his past life, and feel, as only genius can make others feel, the lurid fires and poisoned darts which tortured him into the old man eloquent he has since become—the wonder-working artist, whose dreams and dream sceneries have enriched our literature with a new world of fancy. We cannot coldly criticize the chief work of such a writer.

Many passages, precious for beauty of style—many others precious for new facts, statements, explanations,—have been added in this new edition. Blanks are now filled in—per-

plexing dashes have in most cases flowered into names. Thus we now learn from Mr. De Quincey who were the English opium-eaters on whose cases he contended that the vice of opium-eating prevailed extensively in English society.—

"Who are they? Reader, I am bound to say, a very numerous class indeed. Of this I became convinced, some years ago, by computing, at that time, the number of those in one small class of English society (the class of men distinguished for talent and notoriety) who were known to me, directly or indirectly, as opium-eaters; such, for instance, as the eloquent and benevolent William Wilberforce; the late Dean of Carlisle, Dr. Isaac Milner; the first Lord Erskine; Mr. —, the philosopher; a late under-secretary of state (viz., Mr. Addington, brother to the first Lord Sidmouth, who described to me the sensation which first drove him to the use of opium in the very same words as the Dean of Carlisle—viz., 'that he felt as though rats were gnawing at the coats of his stomach'); Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and many others hardly less celebrated."

Mr. De Quincey speaks of himself as existing on the rack,—and thus explains away any slight confusion or inaccuracies in these revised Confessions. "This improvement" of his work, he says, "has been won at a price of labour and suffering that, if they could be stated, would seem incredible." He adds:—

"A nervous malady, of very peculiar character, which has attacked me intermittently for the last eleven years, came on in May last, almost concurrently with the commencement of this revision; and so obstinately has this malady pursued its noiseless, and what I may call subterraneous, siege, since none of the symptoms are externally manifested, that, although pretty nearly dedicating myself to this one solitary labour, and not intermitting or relaxing it for a single day, I have yet spent, within a very few days, six calendar-months upon the re-cast of this one small volume."

A worse foe even than sickness thwarted the writer in his attempt to make the Confessions worthier of his own conception:—

"All along I had relied upon a crowning grace, which I had reserved for the final pages of this volume, in a succession of some twenty or twenty-five dreams and noon-day visions, which had arisen under the latter stages of opium influence. These have disappeared: some under circumstances which allow me a reasonable prospect of recovering them; some unaccountably; and some dishonourably. Five or six, I believe, were burned in a sudden conflagration which arose from the spark of a candle falling unobserved amongst a very large pile of papers in a bedroom, when I was alone and reading. Falling not on, but amongst and within the papers, the fire would soon have been ahead of conflict; and, by communicating with the slight woodwork and draperies of a bed, it would have immediately enveloped the laths of a ceiling overhead, and thus the house, far from fire-engines, would have been burned down in half-an-hour. My attention was first drawn by a sudden light upon my book: and the whole difference between a total destruction of the premises and a trivial loss (from books charred) of five guineas, was due to a large Spanish cloak. This, thrown over, and then drawn down tightly, by the aid of one sole person, somewhat agitated, but retaining her presence of mind, effectually extinguished the fire. Amongst the papers burned partially, but not so burned as to be absolutely irretrievable, was the 'Daughter of Lebanon'; and this I have printed, and have intentionally placed it at the end, as appropriately closing a record in which the case of poor Ann the Outcast formed not only the most memorable and the most suggestively pathetic incident, but also *that* which, more than any other, coloured—or (more truly I should say) shaped, moulded and remoulded, composed and decomposed—the great body of opium dreams. The search after the lost features of Ann, which I spoke of as pursued in the crowds of London was in a more proper sense pursued through many a year in dreams. The general idea of a search and a chase reproduced itself in many shapes. The person, the rank, the age, the scenical position, all varied

themselves for ever; but the same leading traits more or less faintly remained of a lost Pariah woman, and of some shadowy malice which withdrew her, or attempted to withdraw her, from restoration and from hope. Such is the explanation which I offer why that particular addition, which some of my friends had been authorised to look for, has not in the main been given, nor for the present could be given; and, secondly, why that part which is given has been placed in the conspicuous situation (as a closing passage) which it now occupies."

Is this loss—this hope—also an opium dream? We cannot say. The master's moods are somewhat mystical. We are pleased with what we get, and do not miss the "crowning grace."

Among the passages which will be most easily picked out of this revision are the personal passages relating to distinguished men—the contemporaries of the Opium-Eater in his earlier time. Such is the defence of the Opium-Eater against the aspersion of Coleridge,—a passage which we gladly quote as showing with what strength and subtlety Mr. De Quincey still reasons:—

"Coleridge was doubly in error when he allowed himself to aim most unfriendly blows at my supposed voluptuousness in the use of opium; in error as to a principle, and in error as to a fact. A letter of his, which I will hope that he did not design to have published, but which, however, has been published, points the attention of his correspondent to a broad distinction separating my case as an opium-eater from his own: he, it seems, had fallen excusably (because unavoidably) into this habit of eating opium—as the one sole therapeutic resource available against his particular malady; but I, wretched that I am, being so notoriously charmed by fairies against pain, must have resorted to opium in the abominable character of an adventurous voluntary, angling in all streams for variety of pleasures. Coleridge is wrong to the whole extent of what was possible; wrong in his fact, wrong in his doctrine; in his little fact, and his big doctrine. I did not do the thing which he charges upon me; and if I had done it, this would not convict me as a citizen of Sybaris or Daphne. There never was a distinction more groundless and visionary than that which it has pleased him to draw between my motives and his own; nor could Coleridge have possibly owed this mis-statement to any false information; since no man surely, on a question of my own private experience, could have pretended to be better informed than myself. Or, if there really is such a person, perhaps he will not think it too much trouble to rewrite these Confessions from first to last, correcting their innumerable faults; and, as it happens that some parts of the unpublished sections for the present are missing, would he kindly restore them—brightening the colours that may have faded, rekindling the inspiration that may have drooped; filling up all those chasms, which else are likely to remain as permanent disfigurements of my little work? Meantime the reader, who takes any interest in such a question, will find that I myself (upon such a theme not simply the best, but surely the sole authority) have, without a shadow of variation, always given a different account of the matter. Most truly I have told the reader, that not any search after pleasure, but mere extremity of pain from rheumatic toothache—this and nothing else it was that first drove me into the use of opium. Coleridge's bodily affliction was simple rheumatism. Mine, which intermittently raged for ten years, was rheumatism in the face combined with toothache. This I had inherited from my father; or inherited (I should rather say) from my own desperate ignorance; since a trifling dose of colocynth, or of any similar medicine, taken three times a-week, would more certainly than opium have delivered me from that terrific curse. In this ignorance, however, which misled me into making war upon toothache when ripened and manifesting itself in effects of pain, rather than upon its germs and gathering causes, I did but follow the rest of the world. To intercept the evil whilst yet in elementary stages of formation, was the true policy; whereas I in my blindness sought only for some mitigation to the evil when already formed, and past all reach of

interception. In this stage of the suffering, formed and perfect, I was thrown passively upon chance advice, and therefore, by a natural consequence, upon opium—that being the one sole anodyne that is almost notoriously such, and which in that great function is universally appreciated. Coleridge, therefore, and myself, as regards our baptismal initiation into the use of that mighty drug, occupy the very same position. We are embarked in the self-same boat; nor is it within the compass even of angelic hair-splitting, to show that the dark shadow thrown by our several trespasses in this field, mine and his, had by so much as a pin's point any assignable difference. Trespass against trespass (if any trespass there were)—shadow against shadow (if any shadow were really thrown by this trespass over the snowy disk of pure ascetic morality), in any case, that act in either of us would read into the same meaning, would count up as a debt into the same value, would measure as a delinquency into the same burden of responsibility. And vainly, indeed, does Coleridge attempt to differentiate two cases which ran into absolute identity, differing only as rheumatism differs from toothache. Amongst the admirers of Coleridge, I at all times stood in the foremost rank; and the more was my astonishment at being summoned so often to witness his carelessness in the management of controversial questions, and his demoniacal inaccuracy in the statement of facts. The more also was my sense of Coleridge's wanton injustice in relation to myself individually. Coleridge's gross mis-statement of facts, in regard to our several opium experiences, had its origin, sometimes in flighty reading, sometimes in partial and incoherent reading, sometimes in subsequent forgetfulness; and any one of these lax habits (it will occur to the reader) is a venial infirmity. Certainly it is; but surely not venial, when it is allowed to operate disadvantageously upon the character for self-control of a brother, who had never spoken of him but in the spirit of enthusiastic admiration; of that admiration which his exquisite works so amply challenge. Imagine the case that I really had done something wrong, still it would have been ungenerous—if it would have saddened, I confess, to see Coleridge rushing forward with a public denunciation of my fault:—“Know all men by these presents, that I, S. T. C., a noticeable man with large grey eyes, am a licensed opium-eater, whereas this other man is a buccaneer, a pirate, a filibuster, and can have none but a forged licence in his disreputable pocket. In the name of Virtue arrest him!” But the truth is, that inaccuracy as to facts and citations from books was in Coleridge a mere necessity of nature. Not three days ago, in reading a short comment of the late Archdeacon Hare (*‘Guesses at Truth’*) upon a bold speculation of Coleridge's (utterly baseless) with respect to the machinery of Etonian Latin verses, I found my old feelings upon this subject refreshed by an instance that is irresistibly comic, since everything that Coleridge had relied upon as a citation from a book in support of his own hypothesis, turns out to be a pure fabrication of his own dreams; though, doubtless (which indeed it is that constitutes the characteristic interest of the case), without a suspicion on his part of his own furious romancing. The archdeacon's good-natured smile upon that Etonian case naturally reminded me of the case now before us, with regard to the history of our separate careers as opium-eaters. Upon which case I need say no more, as by this time the reader is aware that Coleridge's entire statement upon that subject is perfect moonshine, and, like the sculptured imagery of the pendulous lamp in *‘Christabel’*,

All carved from the carver's brain.

This case, therefore, might now be counted on as disposed of; and what sport it could yield might reasonably be thought exhausted. Meantime, on consideration, another and much deeper oversight of Coleridge's becomes apparent; and as this connects itself with an aspect of the case that furnishes the foundation to the whole of these ensuing Confessions, it cannot altogether be neglected. Any attentive reader, after a few moments' reflection, will perceive that, whatever may have been the casual occasion of mine or Coleridge's opium-eating, this could not have been the permanent ground of opium-eating; because neither rheumatism nor toothache is any abiding affection of the system. Both are inter-

mitting maladies, and not at all capable of accounting for a permanent habit of opium-eating. Some months are requisite to found that. Making allowance for constitutional differences, I should say that in less than 120 days no habit of opium-eating could be formed strong enough to call for any extraordinary self-conquest in renouncing it, and even suddenly renouncing it. On Saturday you are an opium-eater, on Sunday no longer such. What, then, was it, after all, that made Coleridge a slave to opium, and a slave that could not break his chain? He fancies, in his headlong carelessness, that he has accounted for this habit and this slavery; and in the meantime he has accounted for nothing at all about which any question has arisen. Rheumatism, he says, drove him to opium. Very well; but with proper medical treatment the rheumatism would soon have ceased; or even, without medical treatment, under the ordinary oscillations of natural causes. And when the pain ceased, then the opium should have ceased. Why did it not? Because Coleridge had come to taste the genial pleasure of opium; and thus the very impeachment, which he fancied himself in some mysterious way to have evaded, recoils upon him in undiminished force. The rheumatic attack would have retired before the habit could have had time to form itself. Or suppose that I underrate the strength of the possible habit—this tells equally in my favour; and Coleridge was not entitled to forget in my case a plea remembered in his own. It is really memorable in the annals of human self-deceptions, that Coleridge could have held such language in the face of such facts. I, boasting not at all of my self-conquests, and owning no moral argument against the free use of opium, nevertheless on mere prudential motives break through the vassalage more than once, and by efforts which I have recorded as modes of transcendent suffering. Coleridge, professing to believe (without reason assigned) that opium-eating is criminal, and in some mysterious sense more criminal than wine-drinking or porter-drinking, having, therefore, the strongest moral motive for abstaining from it, yet suffers himself to fall into a captivity to this same wicked opium, deadlier than was ever heard of, and under no coercion whatever that he has anywhere explained to us. A slave he was to this potent drug not less abject than Caliban to Prospero—his despised and yet despotic master. Like Caliban, he frets his very heart-strings against the rivets of his chain. Still, at intervals through the gloomy vigils of his prison, you hear muttered growls of impotent mutineering swelling upon the breeze:

Irasque leonum
Vincit recusantum—

recusantum, it is true, still refusing yet still accepting, protesting for ever against the fierce, overwhelming curb-chain, yet for ever submitting to receive it into the mouth. It is notorious, that in Bristol (to that I can speak myself, but probably in many other places) he went so far as to hire men—porters, blackney-coachmen, and others—to oppose by force his entrance into any druggist's shop. But, as the authority for stopping him was derived simply from himself, naturally these poor men found themselves in a metaphysical fix, not provided for even by Thomas Aquinas or by the prince of Jesuitical casuists. And in this excruciating dilemma would occur such scenes as the following:—“Oh, sir, would plead the suppliant porter—suppliant, yet semi-imperative (for equally if he did, and if he did not, show fight, the poor man's daily 5s. seemed endangered)—‘really you must not; consider, sir, your wife and—’ *Transcendent Philosopher.* ‘Wife! what wife? I have no wife.’ *Porter.* But, really now, you must not, sir. Didn't you say no longer ago than yesterday—*Transcendent Philos.* Pooh, pooh! yesterday is a long time ago. Are you aware, my man, that people are known to have dropped down dead for timely want of opium?—*Porter.* Ay, but you tellt me not to hearken—*Transcendent Philos.* Oh, nonsense. An emergency, a shocking emergency, has arisen—quite unlooked for. No matter what I told you in times long past. That, which I now tell you, is—that, if you don't remove that arm of yours from the doorway of this most respectable druggist, I shall have a good ground of action against you for assault and battery.—Am I the man to reproach Coleridge

with this vassalage to opium? Heaven forbid! Having groaned myself under that yoke, I pity, and blame him not. But undeniably, such a vassalage must have been created wilfully and consciously by his own craving after genial stimulation; a thing which I do not blame, but Coleridge did. For my own part, duly as the torment relaxed in relief of which I had resorted to opium, I laid aside the opium, not under any meritorious effort of self-conquest; nothing of that sort do I pretend to; but simply on a prudential instinct warning me not to trifle with an engine so awful of consolation and support, nor to waste upon a momentary uneasiness what might eventually prove, in the midst of all-shattering hurricanes, the great elixir of resurrection. What was it that did in reality make me an opium-eater? That affection which finally drove me into the habitual use of opium, what was it? Pain was it? No, but misery. Casual overcasting of sunshine was it? No, but blank desolation. Gloom was it that might have departed? No, but settled and abiding darkness—

Total eclipse,
Without all hope of day."

We recommend the young reader who has still to make acquaintance with the Opium-Eater to send for this profound and original book. To the reader who knows him already recommendation is useless. The Nile draws back its children by its own sweet force.

The Works of Shakespeare: the Text carefully restored according to the First Editions; with Introductions, Notes original and selected, and a Life of the Poet. By the Rev. H. N. Hudson, A.M. 10 vols. Boston (U.S.), Munroe & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.

NEARLY six years have elapsed since the first volume of Mr. Hudson's edition of Shakespeare saw the light. Ten volumes include the Plays; the eleventh volume gives us the Poems, with a Life of the poet, and a general review of his works.

The Life is derived from “Rowe, Malone, Collier, and Halliwell.” Mr. Hudson points out with becoming candour that “he had no means of adding to the stock of matter” gathered on this subject by the writers of England. He has made good use of the materials before him. It would have been better if he had compressed them within shorter space; but, as it is, he has fully told the tale as it stands upon the careful antiquarian gleanings of his English predecessors.

His edition of the Plays represents on its face the changes which have taken place during the long period of its publication. About midway between the issue of his first and last volumes the Old Corrector, “like an eagle in a dovecote,” fluttered both the builders on the first folio and the worshippers of the quartos. Out of the salutary storm which he excited has arisen a marvellous change in Shakespeare literature. The effects on Mr. Hudson's work are singular. He has been building, as it were, on a shifting foundation. The first part of his edifice stands all askew as compared with the last. Volume I. looks old-fashioned by the side of Volume X. The former is full of Knight and the first folio, of Collier and the quartos, of Malone and Steevens, of Chalmers and Theobald. In the latter we meet with Dyce and Singer, the MS. annotator, and new readings suggested in ‘Notes and Queries.’ To make his book all of a piece Mr. Hudson mustredit his first five volumes.

One of the changes which has occurred during Mr. Hudson's long labour has produced a somewhat curious result. He has relied much upon Mr. Singer, and has adopted and applauded some of that gentleman's conjectural readings. But in the mean time Mr. Singer has published

his new edition, and has quietly, and generally very properly, abandoned suggestions which are the objects of Mr. Hudson's admiration. An example is before us in 'Coriolanus.' The celebrated speech "O good, but most unwise patricians," has been cobbled up by successive alterations into a reasonable condition, but during the process of change an astonishing amount of editorial wrong-headedness has been expended in what is termed "criticism." The circumstances of the scene must be borne in mind. The tribune of the people had just interposed his dogmatic "shall."—"Hear you this Triton of the minnows!" bursts forth the vehement Coriolanus; "mark you his absolute 'shall'!"

O God! but most unwise patricians,

was the commencement of the impetuous hero's angry comment. Theobald altered the second word to "good," which the conservative and conscientious Mr. Steevens protested against as a very uncalled-for alteration. Of course it has stood its ground, and the whole speech now reads—adopting the suggestions of the MS. corrector—thus:—

O good, but most unwise patricians! why,
You grave but reckless senators, have you thus
Given Hydra here to choose an officer
That with his tempestory "shall," being but
The horn and noise o' the monsters, wants not spirit
To say he'll turn your current in a ditch
And make your channel his? If he have power,
Then vail your impotence; if none, revoke
Your dangerous bounty. If you are learned,
Be not as common fools; if you are not,
Let them have cushions by you. You are plebeians
If they be senators; and they are no less,
When both your voices blended, the great'st taste
Most palates theirs.

The conclusion is somewhat obscure, but its meaning seems to be, that the plebeians are no less than senators when the voices of senators and plebeians being blended, the greatest—that is, the finest and most acute—taste finds the plebeian flavour in the combination stronger than that of the senators:—in other words, when the plebeian "shall" out-weights the previous decision of the senators. "Taste" and "palate" seem obviously correlative, but Mr. Singer, in a drowsy moment, altered "taste" to "state." The alteration pleased Mr. Hudson. He adopts and illustrates it. But in the mean time Mr. Singer wakes. Farther reflection converts him back again from "state" to "taste"; and his disciple, now left in the lurch, finds himself on the publication of Mr. Singer's new edition in the position of determining what his master has abandoned.

This is one out of many examples of what we deem inaccurate judgment in Mr. Hudson in relation to passages of some obscurity. But his glossarial notes are generally satisfactory. They are clear condensations of the diffuse explanations of the commentators, and are enough—more than enough—to satisfy the requirements of intelligent readers. The appearance of the book and its typographical execution are favourable specimens of what is done in that way across the Atlantic, and if the editor wants that fullness of acquaintance with the illustrative Elizabethan literature which is necessary to constitute a complete Shakespeare scholar, such knowledge can scarcely be expected to be found out of England. Mr. Hudson's share of it is extensive, but, of course, it is derived, and not original.

The appreciation of Shakespeare in America is a hopeful symptom of the social tendencies of that country. His genial tone and universal sympathy—his hatred of the mean and the false—will sanctify the hearts and homes into which his genius is honestly received.

Russian Popular Tales. Translated from the German Version by Anton Dietrich. With an Introduction by Jacob Grimm. Chapman & Hall.

THE Fairies are said to derive their pleasantly-sounding appellation from the Greek word Φάε, "I speak." Whatever the Russian term may be for the same workers of picturesque magic, it is clear that it cannot have the same origin. Their enchanters and enchantresses are the least eloquent of their class that we have ever met with. They are bungling, unwieldy people, not much addicted to truth, and with a great admiration for knavery. If a man has absolutely nothing to do he may read a volume of Russian Fairy Tales. He will then have done nothing.

Unfortunately, much of popular education, everywhere, consists of the literature of fairy romance. There is more of life, perhaps, influenced by the result of such studies than many of us could readily imagine, or, it may be, would readily allow. Where, however, the great moral always insisted upon is of a healthy tendency, there is little harm done. Where it is otherwise, a national character may suffer damage.

Now, it is otherwise with these popular Russian tales. Generally speaking, the stilted heroes are sorry, selfish fellows, looking out only for their own advantage. They have none of the chivalrous feeling of Western romance. They do not woo, but steal women; and the least stupid story in the volume shows how a shoemaker, by aid of the devil, passed himself off as a prince, and so married a princess, with whom he lived happily, as the French say, "sans aucune rétribution." This is thought a capital story: and an incident in another, narrating how a nobleman stole a basket from a poor miller, is quite as ricketty in its morality as the story of the knave who gets a wife under false pretences.

As examples of the low estimation at which filial obedience is put in these Russian popular tales, we may cite two instances. In 'Ivan, the Peasant's Son,' we are told that "the old people fell to weeping bitterly when he spoke of leaving them, and entreated him to stay at least a little longer; but Ivan heeded not their tears, and said—'If you will not give your consent, I shall go without it.'" He goes, and prosters. The other case is of a young princess, who would fain marry a man whom her father emphatically pronounces to be a fool. "Fool as he may be," answered the princess, "I entreat you, my royal father, to let me marry him." The royal sire sees that his own feelings and judgment are not deemed worthy of consideration, and accordingly he yields a sorrowful, reluctant, and sulky "take him." The strong-minded young lady is happy of course.

Summarily, this series may be described as either meaningless or mischievous. Where the stories are not the one, they are the other; and, indeed, they are often both. They are all pointless, as far as wit or humour is concerned; but not so with respect to the injury they are calculated to inflict on the patient youth who may be unlucky enough to have leisure to waste his time upon them. If the Russian children, old or young, find pleasure in such nonsense, they are very easily pleased. The next fault to a lack of good moral teaching in them, is their remarkable lack of imaginative power. As the critic does what no reader need do—peruse story after story, the unhappy man seems like a miserable individual condemned to be present at a series of representations of more than usually dull equestrian melodramatic performances. The same incidents,

the same characters, the same scenery, the same pretentious sted, and the same spasmodic effects and speeches run through all, under slightly varied forms. We are for ever coming upon octogenarian couples sighing for progeny and getting what they sigh for. We no sooner part from three stupid brothers leaving home in search of more stupid adventures, when we encounter the same three, or their cousins, sallying forth on the same errand. There is one of them who is, indeed, a wonderful fellow. No transpontine actor ever slew so many individual enemies by hard fighting and much loss of breath, as this Russian knight does whole armies by a single wave of his sword. Where his arrow falls it scatters dust over three broad acres. One original and startling effect is the case of an angry Muscovite cavalier, who smacks the face of another gentleman with such effect as to send his head clean through a stone wall. This incident would "tell" in the melodrama on the Surrey side of the water. Then, there is the same sted, always fairy-locked behind the same bars, ever released by the same means, continually performing the same marvellous exploits, and employing a display of super-equine efforts for the accomplishment of very minute results. The equestrian performances would have inspired the proud contempt of that *impayable* Widdicombe, who died one day, only to show that he was not immortal. Knight and horse, in short, are repeated till we are weary of both. The first makes the same speeches, and so, indeed, does the horse, only that they are less foolish than his master's. As soon as we behold the entry of both on the stage, we know exactly what the two animals are about to enact, and, weary with the *crambe repetita*, we take to counting the footlights of the stage, as more profitable pastime. So much for the personages; as for the pieces they are sometimes as inappropriately named as the actors are unreasonable. Glorious old Mr. Astley used to say that he did not care a doit how stupid a piece was, if it only had a "good name on a wall." He often chose one which had little to do with the drama, and after some such fashion we have here 'Emilian the Fool,' in which, of the eternal three brothers, Emilian is the only one who is *not* a fool, but an acute younger brother, who, by his wit, makes himself the head of his family. He has even the good sense to decline accepting a crown which is offered to him; and this circumstance alone might have saved him from an accusation of foolishness.

Although these stories be old, we trace in one

or two an affinity to modern Russia. We cite the following from the 'Seven Brothers Simeon,' as illustrating our assertion.—

"There was once upon a time an old man and woman, who lived together many years without children; and in their old age they prayed to have a child, to assist them when they were no longer able to labour. After seven years the good woman gave birth to seven sons, who were all named Simeon; and when these boys were in their tenth year, the old folk died, and the sons tilled the ground which their father left them. It chanced one day that the Czar Ador drove past, and saw the little fellows all busy at work in their field. So he sent one of his Boyars (Russian nobles) to ask them whose children they were; and the eldest Simeon answered, that they were orphans, and had no one to work for them. On returning to the palace, the Czar said to the eldest Simeon, 'Tell me what art or trade would you like to follow? I will apprentice you to it.' But Simeon answered, 'Please your Majesty, I wish to learn no art; but if you will command a smithy to be put up in the middle of your court, I will raise a column which shall reach to the sky.' The Czar ordered a smithy to be built in his court-yard, and the eldest Simeon straightways set to work. To similar questions the second brother replied, 'When my eldest brother has raised the iron column, I will

mount to the top of it, look around over the whole world, and tell you what is passing in every kingdom.'—The third Simeon replied, 'If my eldest brother will make me an axe, I will build a ship in the twinkling of an eye.'—The fourth Simeon answered, 'When my third brother has built a ship, and the ship is attacked by enemies, I will seize it by the prow, and draw it into the subterranean kingdom; and when the foe has departed, I will bring it back again upon the sea.'—The fifth brother replied, 'When my eldest brother has made me a gun, I will shoot with it every bird that flies, however distant, provided I can but see it.'—The sixth Simeon said, in like manner, 'Sire, let me only watch till my fifth brother has shot a bird, and I will catch it before it falls to the ground, and bring it to your Majesty.'—'Bravo!' said the Czar; 'you will serve in the field as well as a dog.'—The last Simeon replied, 'I understand how to steal better than any man alive.' The Boyars said, 'O Czar, who knows but that he may be a clever thief, and prove useful in case of need?'—'Well spoken, my friends,' replied the Czar; and, turning to the thievish Simeon, he said, 'Hark you, friend, can you travel over seven-and-twenty countries into the thirtieth kingdom, and steal for me the fair Princess Helena? I am in love with her, and if you can bring her to me I will reward you richly.'—'Leave it to us,' answered Simeon; 'your Majesty has only to command.'—[Of course, by lying and thieving this was accomplished. The Princess was inveigled on board the ship built for the purpose.]—When they came to the quay, Simeon invited the Princess on board his ship, where he and his brothers displayed to her all kinds of wares. Then said the thief to the Princess, 'I prithee order your attendants to leave the ship, and I will show you other and more costly wares, which they must not see.' So the Princess ordered them to return to shore; and Simeon the thief instantly desired his brothers to cut the cable, set all the sails, and put out to sea. Meantime he amused the Princess by unpacking the wares, and making her various presents. In this manner hours passed by; and at last she told him that she must return home, as her father would be expecting her back. So saying, she went up from the cabin, and perceived that the ship was already far out at sea, and almost out of sight of land. Thereat she beat her breast, changed herself into a swan, and flew away. But in an instant the fifth Simeon seizing his gun fired at her; and the sixth brother caught her before she fell into the water, and placed her on the deck, when the Princess resumed her form of a woman. Meanwhile the attendants and lady's-maids, who were standing on the shore, and had seen the ship sail away with the Princess, went and told the Czar of Simeon's treachery. Then the Czar instantly commanded his whole fleet to go in pursuit; and it had already got very near to Simeon's ship, when the fourth brother seized the vessel by the prow, and drew it into the subterranean region. When the ship disappeared, all the sailors in the fleet thought that it had sunk, together with the Princess Helena, and went back to the Czar Sarg and told him the sad tidings. But the seven brothers Simeon returned safely to their own country, and conducted the Princess Helena to the Czar Ador, who gave the Simeons their freedom, as a reward for the services they had rendered, together with a quantity of gold and silver and precious stones. And the Czar lived with the beautiful Helena for many years in peace and happiness."

There are few idiomatical expressions, and fewer local allusions in these Tales, than we should have expected. Among them we find a man described as falling from a tree "like a sheaf of oats." To be invited to "salt and bread," we are told is a form of invitation still usual in Russia. A thriving baby is thus spoken of: "As buckwheat dough rises with leaven, so did the Czarewitch grow and grow." To express how a Czar is supposed to have everything prepared to his hand, the homely illustration is used, "With the Czar beer is not brewed, and brandy is not distilled." When we are told that a certain man on entering his house duly opened the door, but "forgot

to remove the footboard," we should be at a loss to know what is meant, but for the explanation that "the doors in Russia do not reach to the ground; but there is an open space of about a foot, which lets them be more easily opened and shut in winter, when the snow lies deep. This space is closed by a board fastened to the side-post, which can be raised or lowered." Finally, the old Russian admiration of, and desire for, the southern portion of Europe may be traced in the phrase which describes that (to a Muscovite) paradiseal district as the region of "still waters and warm seas."

NATURAL HISTORY.

The Aquavarium, Fresh and Marine. By E. Lankester, M.D. (Hardwicke.) This is beyond comparison the best work that has appeared on the subject of the Freshwater Aquarium, or, as the author prefers to call it, Aquavarium. It contains a luminous popular statement of the "first principles," or physical and chemical as well as physiological requirements, and a good practical exposition of the best mode of carrying them into effect. In addition to these essential points, the natural history of the plants and animals which are best adapted for living and growing in domestic aquaria is given in a popular form, without any want of scientific accuracy. We think the author's change of the older name of Aquarium into a longer, and, let him say what he will, a less easily pronounceable word, unnecessary. Every one will, after all, use the name he likes best; and we think most will still adhere to the older and simpler word. Although we have said that this is the best work extant on the Freshwater Aquarium, it is not, and does not profess to be, equally full on the Marine. The author, with a justice and candour which deserve imitation, states that "Mr. Gosse's excellent little work on the Saltwater Vivarium renders it unnecessary that we should treat at any length on this department of our subject." His remarks are, however, pertinent and practical, and his list of objects is full, and generally well selected. We have no hesitation in saying, that at present nothing can be wanted for the most ambitious cultivation of this branch of scientific amusement beyond the two books indicated, viz.: Dr. Lankester on the Freshwater, and Mr. Gosse, on the Marine Aquarium. The illustrations, both on copper and wood, are numerous, and very nicely executed. We have to correct a somewhat remarkable error into which Dr. Lankester has fallen, in assigning to the water-spider a membrane surrounding the body, as the apparatus by which the animal conveys the air to its subaqueous cell. Every one knows that it is simply by means of a covering of hair on the abdomen, to which the air becomes attached, and, as it were, entangled, that this curious process is effected. We are the more surprised at this mistake, as the true mode is described in so many popular works on the habits of insects.

A Manual of the Sea-Anemones commonly found on our Coast. By the Rev. George Tugwell. (Van Voorst.)—A useful and elegant little volume, without any pretensions to a high or even a distinct scientific character. The descriptions are sufficient for ordinary collectors of these animals for the aquarium, but their scientific value is nil; and the distinctions between species and variety are often obscure and baseless. The illustrations are characteristic, and some of them beautiful, particularly the figure of *Actinia fragacea*, and some others. The style is too conversational, not to say flippant; and in this respect re-

sembles too much the fashionable conventionalism of the popular science of the present day. We, however, can recommend it to visitors to the sea-side as a useful and pleasant companion, while waiting for the more scientific and precise volume which we are promised from the pen of Mr. Gosse.

The Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer, for 1856. (Newman.)—When will the Entomologists repudiate the twaddle which so often renders their productions ridiculous? The Editor seems perfectly pachydermatous. Criticism and advice and remonstrance are altogether thrown away upon him; and the trifling littleness of his favourite *Tineinæ* seems to have hopelessly infected his own mind. That our present animadversions are not undeserved, our readers will, we think, concede, when we quote such childish trifling as the following bit of a long leading article, of the date of May 24, in the present volume:—"Once upon a time there was a little boy: this little boy was not a very good little boy, and when they did not give him anything he wanted, he began to cry. His mamma did not like to see or hear him cry; so that as soon as he began to cry, she gave him whatever it was that he wanted;"—and so on for nearly three columns of text! If the writer thinks that such stuff as this is calculated to uphold the dignity of science, or to keep Entomology in the position in which such men as Kirby, and Spence, and Westwood, and the late George Newport, and many others, have by their worthy labours placed it, we tell him once more that he is egregiously mistaken. It may do for the hunters after *Tineinæ*, or the collectors of pretty moths and butterflies, but the sooner such persons are taught that the pursuit of these mere childish amusements does not give them the most remote title to a scientific character, or to an association with the higher names we have just mentioned, the better; and we again warn those who are accessible to plain truth that the mere entomologists, as a body, are, by such trifling, injuring the cause of true science, by investing a spurious bastard imitation of it with its sacred and noble name.

History of Latin Christianity; including that of the Popes to the Pontificate of Nicolas V. By Henry Hart Milman, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's. Vols. IV.—VI. Murray.

THE concluding volumes of this important work carry forward the history of European civilization in connexion with the Papacy from Innocent the Third to Nicolas the Fifth, from 1198 to 1454. These were the ages of darkness—of that gross darkness which preceded the light of the Reformation. It has of late been fashionable to call in question the justice of this condemnation. Our forefathers and ourselves, we have been told, have laboured under a delusion. What we have termed ignorance was knowledge habited in a garment now obsolete, and those ages which we have miscalled dark were happy days in which the Church enjoyed the inestimable blessing of unity, days in which faith the deepest and the most sublime was found in unison with child-like simplicity and innocence. The Dean of St. Paul's has gone over the voluminous authorities on which we depend for our knowledge of the Middle Ages with singular care, and has stated the results of his examination with fullness and freedom.

His History brings before us multitudes of names round which we linger fondly, and innumerable incidents into the circumstances of which we are never weary of inquiring. Stephen Langton and Simon de Montfort, St. Francis and St. Louis, Rienzi and Wycliffe, with hosts

of others, arrayed in the W. clear dema Coast lomin Gregness, Coun mades schis De will c. and the I. most Book subje he n. Chris condit He the p. derive of the of the recruit success gifted that, "not o intelle couc ambas draw laws notari directe the se kingdo estates, too, no higher acknow tempor But power every their scriber "Th the pr human of rect God, w witness by the to ever the ho a stra sacred altogether sonal h murmur priest: boldy still pr their e lution till his St. Pet Tit sequer to itself —thus author this fu "Tit tribut self, to the po

of other names of historical interest, pass in array before us. We read the history of John's submission to Pandulph, of the crusade against the Waldenses—a narrative written with peculiar clearness—of the Sicilian Vespers, of the condemnation of the Templars, of the Council of Constance and John Huss, of the rise of Piccolomini, and of popes of all kinds, from the pious Gregory the Tenth to that monster of wickedness, John the Twenty-third,—of the reforming Council of Basle and of the curious attempt made at the Council of Ferrara to close the schism between the Eastern and Western divisions of Christendom.

Dean Milman's narrative of these great events will constitute an excellent text-book for colleges and historical students; but for general readers the portion of his work which will be found most attractive is his fourteenth or concluding Book, in which he gives a summary of the whole subject. "As from a high vantage ground," he says, he surveys the condition of Latin Christianity in relation to the political and social condition of the great mass of mankind.

He opens this valuable chapter by illustrating the power which in that rude age the clergy derived from their almost exclusive possession of the advantages of education. In consequence of their control of schools and universities, they recruited their ranks and perpetuated their succession by drawing into their body all persons gifted with superior capacity. The result was that,—

"not only from their sacred character, but from their intellectual superiority, they are in the courts, in the councils, of kings; that they are the negotiators, the ambassadors of sovereigns; they alone can read and draw up state papers, compacts, treaties, or frame laws. Writing is almost their special mystery; the notaries, if not tonsured, as they mostly were, are directed, ordered, by the clergy: they are in general the servants and agents of ecclesiastics. In every kingdom of Europe the clergy form one of the estates, balance or blindly lead the nobles; and this, too, not merely as churchmen and enrolled in the higher service of God, but from their felt and acknowledged pre-eminence in the administration of temporal affairs."

But their spiritual authority, their assumed power of pre-declaring the eternal destiny of every living layman, was the foundation of their all-prevailing influence. It is well described by Dr. Milman.—

"Throughout the world no man could stand alone; the priest was the universal lord of the universal human conscience. The inward assurance of faith, of rectitude, of virtue, of love of man or love of God, without the ratification of the confessor; the witness of the spirit within, unless confirmed, avouched by the priest, was nothing. Without the passport to everlasting life, everlasting life must recede from the hopes, from the attainment of man. And by a strange yet perhaps unavoidable anomaly, the sacredness of the priest was inalienable, indefeasible, altogether irrespective of his life, his habits, his personal holiness or unholiness. There might be secret murmurs at the avarice, pride, licentiousness of the priest: public opinion might even in some cases boldly hold him up to shame and obloquy, he was still priest, bishop, pope; his sacraments lost not their efficacy, his verdict of condemnation or absolution was equally valid; all the acts of John XXIII., till his deposition, were the acts of the successor of St. Peter."

Tithes came to the Church as the direct consequence of a sacerdotal system which assumed to itself the privileges of the Levitical priesthood,—thus "arraying itself in the irrefragable authority of God's word." The application of this fund was no less irregular than its acquisition.—

"Tithes were first received by the Bishop, and distributed by him in three or in four portions; to himself, to the clergy, for the fabric of the churches, for the poor. But all kinds of irregularities crept into

the simple and stately uniformity of this universal tax and its administration. It was retained by the Bishop; the impoverished clergy murmured at their meagre and disproportionate share. As the parochial divisions became slowly and irregularly distinct and settled, it was in many cases, but by no means universally, attached to the cure of souls. The share of the fabric became uncertain and fluctuating, till at length other means were found for the erection and the maintenance of the Church buildings. The more splendid prelates and chapters, aided by the piety of kings, barons, and rich men, disdained this fund, so insufficient for their magnificent designs; the building of churches was exacted from the devotion or the superstition of the laity in general, conjointly with the munificence of the ecclesiastics. So, too, the right of the poor to their portion became a free-will contribution, measured by the generosity or the wealth of the clergy; here a splendid, ever-flowing largess; there a parsimonious, hardly-extracted dole."

Tithe formed but a small part of the revenues of the clergy. In England the income from their landed property, including that of the monasteries, amounted at the dissolution to a tenth of the whole revenue of the kingdom. But even that amount was but a trifle compared with what they derived from the hopes and fears, the follies and crimes of mankind. This is admirably expressed by Dean Milman.—

"The whole life, the death of every Christian was bound up with the ceremonial of the Church; for almost every office, was received from the rich and generous the ampler donation, from the poorer or more parsimonious was exacted the hard-wronged fee. Above all, there were the masses, which might lighten the sufferings of the soul in purgatory; there was the prodigal gift of the dying man out of selfish love for himself; the more generous and no less prodigal gift of the bereaved, out of holy charity for others. The dying man, from the King to the peasant, when he had no further use for his worldly riches, would devote them to this end; the living, out of profound respect or deep affection for the beloved husband, parent, brother, kinsman, friend, would be, and actually was, not less bountiful and munificent. Add to all this the oblations at the crosses of the Redeemer, or the shrines of popular and famous saints, for their intercessory prayers to avert the imminent calamity, to assuage the sorrow, or to grant success to the schemes, it might be, of ambition, avarice, or any other passion, to obtain pardon for sin, to bring down blessing: crosses and shrines, many of them supposed to be endowed with miraculous powers, constantly working miracles. To most of these were made perpetual processions, led by the Clergy in their rich attire. From the basins of gold or the bright florins of the King to the mite of the beggar, all fell into the deep, insatiable box, which unlocked its treasures to the Clergy."

The author cites one example of the comfortable circumstances enjoyed by a bishop of those days. Richard Gravesend held the see of London from 1290 to 1302. On his death the customary inventory was taken of his effects. It measures 28 feet in length, and gives in detail an enumeration of all his worldly chattels. They were valued at a time when the price of corn was 4s. per quarter, at the moderate sum of 2,871. 7s. 10*½*d.

As some clue to the amount of offerings, the author tells us that in one month, that of May, 1344, the box under the great cross at the entrance of St. Paul's yielded 50*l.* Taken as an average, this gives an amount equal to 9,000*l.* per annum of our money. At the shrine of the Virgin in the same cathedral, the offerings of wax tapers alone were so valuable that the Dean and Chapter would no longer leave them to the vergers. They were extinguished, carried to a room behind the Chapter House, and there melted for the use of the Dean and Canons.

The state of morals which necessarily accompanied the possession of enormous wealth is plainly disclosed by Dean Milman. To deny the dissoluteness of the Papal court at Avignon would, he says, be to discard all historical evi-

dence. The Papal legates bore with them the morals of Avignon. A worthy of Liège, Bishop Henry of that see, boasted at a public banquet that in twenty-two months he had been made the happy father of fourteen children. The visitation of an Archbishop of Rouen between 1248 and 1269 presents a state of sacerdotal morals which cannot be described:—"one convent of females might almost have put Boccaccio to the blush." The Records of the Visitations of St. Paul's, remarks the Dean, "too fully vindicate the truth of Langland, Chaucer, and the satirists against the English clergy and friars of the fourteenth century. And these visitations, which take note only of those publicly accused, hardly reached the lowest and the loosest."

From the contemplation of the magnificent wealth and the scandalous lives of the Latin clergy, Dean Milman passes to a consideration of their belief, that peculiar compound of Paganism and Christianity which filled the Calendar with saints, the churches with altars, and the world with wonder-working relics. These subjects are too capable of modern application to be dealt with in our pages, but Dean Milman's chapter upon them may be perused with profit as a vigorous condensation of what is known respecting the popular belief.

The literature and art of the Middle Ages form the subjects of the concluding chapters. As summaries they are skillful, as rapid surveys of topics of deep interest—the learning of the schoolmen, the Latin poetry of the monks, the popular vernacular poetry such as that of Piers Ploughman and Chaucer, the symbolism of Mediaeval architecture, and the early efforts at the pictorial adornment of the altar and the cloister—these chapters deserve unquestionable commendation. The subjects lie too wide, and are too numerous to be dealt with in the only way accessible to us, but we will give one extract on the value and extent of the discoveries of Roger Bacon.—

"His astronomy no doubt had enabled him to detect the error in the Julian year: three centuries too soon he proposed to Clement IV. to correct the Calendar by his Papal authority, but I presume not to enter further into this or kindred subjects. In Optics his admirers assert that he had found out many remarkable laws, the principle of the Telescope, the Refraction of Light, the cause of the Rainbow. He framed burning glasses of considerable magnitude. Mechanics were among his favourite and most successful studies. In his Chemistry he had reached, or nearly reached, the invention of gunpowder: it is more certain that he sought the philosopher's stone, or at least a transmuting elixir with unlimited power. There are passages about mounting in the air without wings, and self-moving carriages, travelling at vast speed without horses, which sound like vaticinations of still more wonderful things. He had no doubt discovered the cause of the tides. It is for others, too, to decide how far in the general principles of his philosophy he had anticipated his greater namesake, or whether it was more than the sympathy of two kindred minds working on the same subjects, which led to some singular yet very possibly fortuitous coincidences of thought and expression. This, however, is certain, that although the second Bacon's great work, as addressed to Europe, might descend to the Latin form, it was in its strong copious Teutonic English that it wrought its revolution, that it became the great fountain of English thought, of English sagacity, the prelude to and the rule of English scientific discovery."

As an historical abridgment, Dean Milman's work deserves to rank amongst the best of its class. In expression it is occasionally redundant, and its style is frequently heavy and laboured, but it is founded upon honest and copious research, and will, therefore, take a permanent stand in our literature. In statement the author is bold and in opinions liberal. He claims

for the order of which he is a distinguished ornament none of the awful powers obtained in the ages of mediæval darkness. He discards the claim of the priests of Latin Christianity, "without omniscience, to act in the place of the Omnipotent," and views with gratification the advance of toleration and the modifications which the improved spirit of modern times has forced even upon the Latin Church. "Excommunication," he remarks, "is obsolete; the interdict on a nation has not been heard for centuries; even the proscription of books is an idle protest." On the future he dimly shadows forth his anticipations in words which contain suggestions of vital moment.—

"What distinctness of conception, what precision of language, may be indispensable to true faith; what part of the ancient dogmatical system may be allowed silently to fall into disuse, as at least superfluous, and as beyond the proper range of human thought and human language; how far the Sacred records may, without real peril to their truth, be subjected to closer investigation; to what wider interpretation, especially of the Semitic portion, those records may submit, and wisely submit, in order to harmonize them with the irrefutable conclusions of science; how far the Eastern veil of allegory which hangs over their truth may be lifted or torn away to show their unshadowed essence; how far the poetic vehicle through which truth is conveyed may be gently severed from the truth;—all this must be left to the future historian of our religion. As it is my own confident belief that the words of Christ, and his words alone (the primal, indefeasible truths of Christianity), shall not pass away; so I cannot presume to say that men may not attain to a clearer, at the same time more full and comprehensive and balanced sense of those words, than has as yet been generally received in the Christian world. As all else is transient and mutable, these only eternal and universal, assuredly, whatever light may be thrown on the mental constitution of man, even on the constitution of nature, and the laws which govern the world, will be concentered so as to give a more penetrating vision of those undying truths. Teutonic Christianity (and this seems to be its mission and privilege), however nearly in its more perfect form it may already have approximated, may approximate still more closely to the absolute and perfect faith of Christ; it may discover and establish the sublime union of religion and reason; keep in tone the triple-chorded harmony of faith, holiness, and charity; assert its own full freedom, know the bounds of that freedom, respect the freedom of others. Christianity may yet have to exercise a far wider, even if more silent and untraceable influence, through its primary, all-penetrating, all-pervading principles, on the civilization of mankind."

Such foreshadowings commend themselves to the consideration of all thoughtful minds, and especially to those who deem that moral Progress is connected with the growth of rational, as distinguished from fanatical, views of Christianity. Happy will it be for the future if, under the influence of such principles, the bigotry which would trammel thought by the chains of authority may yield to the gentler teaching of that charity which is not merely the bond of peace, but, from its inseparable connexion with energetic working, is alone able to combat the evils of society.

The Republican Party and its Presidential Candidates: comprising an accurate Descriptive History of the Republican Party in the United States, from its Origin in 1796 to its Dissolution in 1832; of the Whig and Democratic Parties during the Interregnum; and of its reformation in 1856, to defend Freedom of Speech and of the Press, and to resist the Aggressions of the Slave Power. With Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Fremont and Dayton. By Benjamin F. Hall, New York, Miller & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.

UNDER the administration of Washington and

the elder Adams the Federalists endeavoured to monarchize the constitution of the United States, by the forms of its administration. By the alien, sedition, and franchise laws of the same party, the Federalists are exposed to the accusation of having invaded the natural rights of the people. Thence sprung up the Republican party, whose principles and policy are to be seen in the administrations of Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and John Quincy Adams. It is especially the history of this latter party which Mr. Hall has narrated in his closely-printed volume. In its course he indicates, as he informs us—

"The several and consecutive platforms of the Whig and Democratic parties, from 1833 to 1856; the conduct of the slave power, as the same was represented in congress in relation to Missouri, the Indian lands in Georgia, and the Central and South American Republics; its co-operation with the friends of General Jackson to overbear Mr. Adams and defeat his re-election; its warlike defiance of, and triumph over, the general government, with the assent of the Whig party, during the administration of General Jackson; its usurpations under the administrations of Mr. Van Buren and General Harrison, and its great exaltation during that of Tyler; its uninterrupted sway under Mr. Polk's administration, in pursuance of a previously formed coalition with Mr. Calhoun; its temporary repulse under President Taylor, and its restored vigour and audacity under Mr. Fillmore; and its full, final, and bloody culmination under the administration of Franklin Pierce."

The above extract will sufficiently explain the scope and purpose which Mr. Hall has in view. To those who are unacquainted with the history of party in the Union this volume will be welcome; for although it is written less in the spirit of a judge than of an advocate, it affords information on very many points, for want of which much of what is going on among our trans-Atlantic kinsmen is unintelligible to ordinary readers on this side of the ocean. The prevailing fault of the volume lies in its heaviness,—a fault which we think might have been easily avoided. The author is nevertheless entitled to commendation, for furnishing the young men of his time with a cheap and intelligible political history of the several administrations by which their country has been governed, or misgoverned. Such a volume, popularly written, treating of our own political history, would be a valuable addition to our literature. That history is at present to be found only in separate or highly-priced works. The information, however, which they contain is of the greatest importance; and yet, how few of our young men are acquainted with the history and progress of the constitution, under which they enjoy a liberty which the subjects of despots do not possess, and hardly know how to appreciate. Even of "first class" men in our colleges, we fancy that there are many who know the succession of the Consuls far more correctly than they do that of the administrations which have governed England since the Reformation. They are familiar with events, but they know little of causes, or of the men by whom both causes and events were influenced.

The following extract is so far of interest, as showing that a Peace Party was established in America, during its later contest with England, and that its practices were as dishonest as its professions were pure:—

"Meanwhile, there had been formed in the United States a non-resistant, or 'Peace Party,' having the professed object of inculcating the benign doctrines indicated by that name, but for the ulterior purpose of arraying the moral and religious sentiment of the country against the administration, of interposing all conceivable obstacles to the war, of loading its advocates and supporters with obloquy, and of bringing them into public contempt. Auxiliary to this, and for similar purposes, there was established another association, styled 'The Washington Benevolent So-

society.' And after these organizations had progressed awhile in their seditious designs, and among them of affording aid and comfort to the enemy through the instrumentality of a concerted 'Blue Light Telegraph,' at New London, the opposition in New England resorted to the memorable 'Hartford Convention,' which assembled on the 15th day of December, 1814, nine days only before the signing of a treaty of peace, and deliberated with closed doors for the period of three weeks. As the employment of the Blue Lights at New London and the seditious character of the Hartford Convention have been, during recent years, disputed, the 'truth of history' appears to require a republication of some of the documentary evidence, at least, by which those allegations were supported. Concerning the Blue Lights, and their object, it will be sufficient to furnish the testimony of the *New London Gazette* of December 15th, and of the *National Advertiser* of March 15th, 1814. 'It will astonish every American who has one spark left to kindle into a flame the love of his country, when we state as a fact, for which we vouch—that on Sunday evening last, when the report was current that our squadron would put to sea before the next morning—in the course of the night, Blue Lights were raised on the heights, both at Groton and on this side of the entrance of our harbour, evidently designed as signals to the British fleet. This has excited the highest indignation; and the most decisive measures have been taken to detect and bring to condign punishment the traitorous wretches who dare thus to give the enemy every advantage over those great and gallant men who, in the war with Tripoli and in the present contest, have surrounded the American stars with a lustre which cannot be eclipsed.' [New London Gazette, Dec. 15, 1813.]—'We have conversed with a gentleman who left New London on Saturday last, who informed us that, on Tuesday evening preceding, there was at that place a considerable storm of snow and rain, and the appearance of the weather being favourable for our squadron to put to sea, Commodore Decatur issued an order, requiring all his officers on shore to repair without delay on board their respective vessels. Shortly after, Blue Lights were thrown up like rockets from Long Point, and distinctly seen by the officers at Fort Trumbull, and by the officers and men on board the look-out boats. They were answered by three heavy guns from the ships of the enemy, at interval of about fifteen minutes. The lights were continued through the night.' [Nat. Adv., of March 15, 1814.]"

The above extract contains almost the only lively or pictorial incident told in Mr. Hall's volume, in which there will be found more of instruction than amusement.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Nanon; or, Women's War. By Alexandre Dumas. (Hodgson & Co.)—The English female redressers of the present day, who have succeeded the "Penthesilea of ancient times, and also Joan of Arc and other" strong women of whom *Sir Dugald Dalgetty* discoursed to the sad lady of Ardenvoehr—will scorn the *Athenæum* for pointing out that the invention of 'Nanon' is one that never fails to interest readers of both sexes. Two ladies fighting for one gentleman,—call them *Harriet Byron* and *Clementina*, call them *Norma* and *Adalgisa* (as in the opera), or dress them up in Revolutionary alarms, as did M. Scribe in his capital comedy, 'La Bataille des Dames,'—always afford an exciting spectacle, though the excitement be opposed to the old-world principles of Fordyce and Chaponne. On the whole, we think the combination exceeds in power the *duello* of two gentlemen fighting for one lady. These speculations have little to do with the amusement afforded by 'Nanon,' for M. Dumas is a story-teller whose witchcraft there is no resisting. Let the strife be what it will—let the prize be a black tulip, or a diamond necklace, or a gentleman's head, or a lady's heart—so long as he chooses to talk about it, we are disposed to believe that no other prize can be worth contending for. Here, in 'Nanon,' we have small respect for Mdlle. de Lartigues, and small affection for Madame de Cambes. The political struggles and intrigues in which Anne of Austria

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and the Princess de Condé were involved are transactions remote from our English sympathies,—and M. de Canolles, the hero, has a touch of the fierce eyes and the waxen cheeks of those warriors who do not make us tremble, let them "look us down" ever so earnestly from the—hairdressers' windows. But let the drawbacks be ever so great, it really matters little when M. Dumas takes us in hand. We do not care a straw for any person or transaction in his story, but we must read it to the end,—and were it in one-and-twenty volumes, instead of in one volume, we fancy that we should hold out. As a narrator the French capitalist, or co-operator, or creator (whichever he be) is unrivalled.

The Great Law of the Human Mind, and the Heavens and the Earth. (Savill & Edwards.)—A few weeks ago we noticed a work in which the Millennium began in 1841; according to the present writer, that period is now in its commencement.—"This work begins the Millennium." A sheet which accompanies the work contains these stirring words, and some poetry into the bargain, of which the following is part:—

And the Despots who rule o'er the myriads unfed,

And shout o'er their sets in captivity led,

Transformed into men, into free men and true,

Cry, "Down with the old age, and up with the new!"

The point can easily be settled. Forward the book to the King of Naples, and see what he will cry. In the book itself there seems to be more magnetism than millennium: at which let no reader be surprised, for mind itself is a kind of distilled magnetism. "The electric stands, *per se*, the pure element; the magnetic is the same expanded, attenuated, or more refined; and the mind is of the same elementary action, still more refined." Thus the *pure element*, after two refining processes, becomes mind. Such a mind must be above proof; and such a mind we imagine the author of this work to possess.

The Vocabulary of Philosophy. By W. Fleming, D.D. (Griffin & Co.)—Dr. Fleming has done what he intended: he has made a useful book for students. His matter is explanation, quotation, and reference. It is one merit of his book that we cannot tell what his own opinions are, except so far as they may be judged from his definitions of words. The only point on which he is assailable is in his choice of words; and on this point he may be charged with a few omissions, such as may easily be remedied in a second edition. Why is *Mathematics* not admitted into a dictionary of philosophical terms? *Polygamy* is there; and Dr. Fleming does not mean to say that a philosopher, as such, has more to do with polygamy than with mathematics: Sir W. Hamilton himself would not have gone that length. A second edition, and a second edition there will be, might with advantage contain many more of the school terms, and many more leading words from the exact sciences. Want of equality, want of due level, is a very common fault of young dictionaries. The one before us gives *Sciomachy* as a word used by Cowley in a political treatise. How many omitted words might have claimed just precedence! We test the maker of a dictionary as we test Euclid. To the Greek geometer we say, we can pardon nothing tacitly taken for granted in a man who makes it matter of enunciation that the whole is greater than its part. To Dr. Fleming we say, that the expounder of *sciomachy* as a technical term of philosophy is bound to give a large allowance of the unusual and the obsolete.

A History of the Christian Church during the Reformation. By Charles Hardwick, M.A. (Cambridge, Macmillan & Co.)—Like its predecessor,—the author's "History of the Church down to the Reformation,"—this work lies open to the objection that it is written in the interest, not of the universal Church, but of one of its many sections. The author reiterates "his former claim to characterize particular systems, persons and events, according to the shades and colours they assume when contemplated from an English point of view, and by a member of the Church of England." The notice is candid. After such forewarning, the reader will not be surprised to find that Mr. Hardwick is one who

To party gives up what was meant for mankind.

Dividing his work into three main parts, Mr. Hardwick traces the Saxon and Swiss schools of Reformers and the English and Irish Reformation. These subjects constitute the body of his work. As off-shoots he gives chapters on the Counter-Reformation, that is, the Council of Trent and the Jesuits,—on the relations between the Eastern and Western Churches,—on the influence of the Reformation on the connexion between the Church and the Civil Power,—on the state of intelligence and piety,—and on the growth of the Church. Such subjects can scarcely be treated so as to deprive them of their innate interest and importance; but we miss in this book the large and liberal spirit which can weigh them all—the Church of England with the rest—in the balance against those principles of universal kindness which give to Christianity its all-swaying power, and render the uncharitableness of sectaries so deeply repulsive.

Biographical Notice of Admiral Sir John Franklin—[Notice Biographique sur l'Amiral Sir John Franklin]. By M. de La Roquette. (Stanford.)—The Geographical Society of Paris attest by this publication the high esteem in which they hold the memory of their late corresponding member, and M. de La Roquette has fulfilled the trust reposed in him in a most creditable manner. Bearing in mind that the Arctic history is not as well known in France as it is in our country, M. de La Roquette has very judiciously incorporated in his sketch of Franklin's life various interesting, but to us well-known, particulars connected with his Arctic explorations. He closes his performance by giving Franklin the merit of having been the first to set at rest the question of a North-West passage—already accorded to him by Sir John Richardson, Admiral Beaufort, and other Arctic authorities—and shows that great interest has been felt throughout France generally for Franklin and his companions.

An appendix contains translations of various official documents, taken from the Parliamentary blue-books; excellent maps of the Arctic regions; and fac-similes of two interesting letters, addressed to friends in England by Sir John Franklin—one to Sir Roderick Murchison, written while on his second North American expedition in 1825, is highly illustrative of the writer's energy and devotion to the service which he had undertaken. On the subject of geology, he says—"An excursion down the Mackenzie would be very interesting to you, as its banks offer very fine specimens of the coal formation, with its neighbouring sand and limestones. It is evident, on the slightest inquiry into geology, that a comparative knowledge of other sciences is requisite—mineralogy and chemistry, for instance—to which I should apply more closely, if the opportunity were permitted me, than I have yet done." When confined to his tent, literary studies of high order formed a portion of the daily routine.—"I have been delighted with Dante, and so have my companions; but I must confess, there is frequently a depth of thought and reasoning to which my mind can hardly reach: perhaps these parts will be better comprehended on reperusal. It seems clear that Milton, as well as other poets, have borrowed ideas from his comprehensive mind." Nor were the comforts and amusement of his men forgotten, as the following extract shows—doubly interesting, when we remember that the same benevolent spirit presided over the Expedition which left our shores never to return:—

"We endeavour (October) to keep ourselves in good humour, health and spirits by an agreeable variety of useful occupations and amusements. Till the snow fell the game of hockey played on the ice was the morning's sport—at other times Wilson's pipes are put in request, and now and then a game of blindman's buff." In fact, I encourage any recreation, to promote exercise and good feeling. I wish you could pop in here and partake our fare. You would be sure of a hearty welcome, and you should have your choice of either moose or reindeer meat, or trout weighing from forty to fifty pounds; but you must bring wine and bread, if you wish either for more than one day." A reduced copy of Sir John Franklin's portrait, from the lithograph in possession of Mr. Weld, gives additional interest to M. de La Roquette's publication.

We have two or three little books for teaching the elements of education, which may be briefly disposed of. To begin at the beginning, here are *Spelling Exercises: an Expansion of the Short Spelling Course*, by Rev. H. Stretton, M.A., a cheap sixpenny-worth.—Next comes Messrs. Blezard and Thompson's *Text-Book of English Grammar*, which, though prepared for children, treats of the derivation of words from Latin and Greek, the analysis of sentences into clauses, and even the rudiments of logic! As a specimen of its accuracy, we give the following definition:—"Nouns are the names of things; as *John, man, goodness*."—*An Explanation of the most Common Rules of Elementary Arithmetic; for the Use of National Schools*, by the Rev. A. Wilson, is a small tract explaining the methods of performing the simplest numerical operations, but throws no light upon principles.—Mr. J. Flint's *Geography of Productions and Manufactures* gives, within the same limits, an account of the articles met with in every-day life, the places where they are produced, and the mode of their preparation.—As a book of reference, *The Student's Handbook of Mediæval History*, edited by J. M'Burney, B.A., with *Dissertations on the State of Europe and on the Feudal System*, by Col. Procter, C.B., may be found of service; but it has too much the character of a chronological table to be used for any other purpose. Though the editor speaks of "numerous Tables, Maps, and two elaborate Essays," we have only been able to discover two maps.

MEDICAL BOOKS.

Osteological Memoirs. No. I. *Clavicle.* By John Struthers, M.D. (Edinburgh, Sutherland & Knox).—No one, we should suppose, would be induced to study anatomy from reading the books devoted to the subject. As little could you imagine the beauty and fitness of a flower from descriptions of its individual parts when pulled to pieces, as that of the human body from anatomical books; and this is what the genuine Drybones of anatomy loves. He seems to avoid the thought of beauty, use, adaptation, in the "processes," "spines," and "foramina," which he delights to describe. Happily, the day of these gentlemen is passing by; and it is gradually being acknowledged that a knowledge of the position of an artery may have some further significance than that of enabling a surgeon to avoid it when he is performing a surgical operation. It is in this improved spirit that Dr. Struthers has commenced a description of the human skeleton; and although he has got no further than the clavicle, we anticipate that his work will be found a useful and interesting addition to anatomical literature.

Tic Douleuroux; its Causes, Symptoms and Treatment. By William Morgan. (Baillière.)—This painful disease is treated of from a homeopathic point of view, and the book embraces the usual amount of ignorance and absurdity found in the class to which it belongs.

On the Nature and Treatment of Club-foot. By Bernard E. Brodhurst. (Churchill.)—The operation for the cure of those distortions known by the name of Club-foot is a triumph of modern surgery. Scarcely anything in the history of surgery has been attended with a more complete success. At the same time, few operations demand a more complete knowledge of anatomy, or of the functions of the organs involved. Already many excellent works have appeared; but as experience becomes larger and wider, previous errors are corrected, and more secure methods introduced. Mr. Brodhurst, as one of the surgeons to the Orthopaedic Hospital in London, has a claim to write and to be heard on this subject; and those who undertake these operations will find this record of his views and practice of great service. The work is illustrated with excellent woodcuts of the various kinds of deformity on which the book is written.

Manual of Health; or, Easy Lessons on Sanitary Matters. By John Flint. (Simpkin & Marshall.)—Sixpenny-worth of very wholesome advice with regard to health. Why do not some of our philanthropists start a Sanitary Tract Society? If their tracts were skilfully written they might do much good.

The Electro-Chemical Bath. By J. J. F. Caplin, M.D. (Freeman.)—We cannot find that the author has in any manner proved the value of electro-chemical bathing over the ordinary cold or warm bath: So far is it from being true that electricity is "amongst the most potent therapeutic agents," that those who understand its nature best are most sceptical with regard to its value as a remedial agent at all.

Pneuma-Therapeia; or, the Use of Pure Oxygen.—This book, which is published without the author's or publisher's name, is cleverly written, on a subject which has occupied the attention of at least one of our most brilliant chemists, and a number of highly-respectable medical men. This subject is the use of gases, and more especially of oxygen gas as a remedial agent. It is popular knowledge that Sir Humphry Davy acquired his knowledge of chemistry at an institution founded by Dr. Beddoes, for the treatment of diseases by gas. That institution failed because the plan failed. It has been tried again and again, and failed. We say, after looking attentively through this book, with all its learning, that it gives no proof that it will not fail again.

Thirty Years' Practical Experience in the Removal of Spinal and Chest Deformities. By P. G. Hamon.—A very short announcement of the author's willingness to undertake the treatment of the diseases referred to on the title-page.

A Practical Treatise on Disorders of the Stomach, with Fermentation. By James Turnbull, M.D. (Churchill.)—As chemistry advances and brings under its domain the functions of living beings, the practice of medicine becomes more and more a matter of experiment. So rapidly has chemistry advanced, that the great changes by which food is converted into flesh and blood, can be expressed by chemical formulae. Not only can the healthy changes of the food be thus measured and noted, but the too rapid, too slow, or changed conditions indicative of a diseased state, can be equally well noted. The acids which burn and the gases which distend the stomach are definite chemical compounds formed from others just as definite. The mess that is put into an alderman's stomach at a Lord Mayor's feast is as amenable to the laws of organic chemistry, as the stone that falls from a height to the law of gravitation. There is a regular fermentation of the food in the stomach, which is necessary and healthy, and there is an irregular fermentation which is abnormal and unhealthy. It is to this question of fermentation that Dr. Turnbull has addressed himself, and he has done it with considerable skill. The symptoms attendant upon disordered digestive function from irregular fermentation are carefully described, and the remedies best adapted for such conditions pointed out. One of the curious results of recent research has been the discovery that certain conditions of the nervous system affect the chemical composition of the fluids of the body; and we think Dr. Turnbull might have advantageously added a chapter on this subject.

History of Asiatic Cholera Morbus. By F. Ballester. (Agra, Gibbons.)—A very speculative and worthless account of this disease.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Banking Almanac for 1857, 8vo. 5s. cl.
Bell's Pictures, Third Series, 2d edit., 8vo. 6s. cl.
Bell's Pictures from the Pictures, 2d edit., royal 16mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Bennet's Queen Eleanor's Vengeance, and other Poems, 8vo. 6s. cl.
Bonap's Visitors' Book of Tours, 2d edit. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Brown's Parting Consuls, 8vo. 8s. cl.
Bunting's History of Progress, 2d edit. by Cheever, new edit. 12s.
Cat and Dog, 4th edit. super royal 16mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Chambers's Select Works, edited by Hanna, Vol. 10, 'Christian and Economic Policy of a Nation,' or 8vo. 6s. cl.
Charles the Fifth's Reign, History of, by Robertson, with Additional Notes, 2d edit., 8vo. 6s. cl.
Cross's Landed Property, or 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Cumming's Saving Truths, Imperial 23mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Driver's Questions and Exercises in Arithmetic, 50. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Edward's Italy as I Saw It, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Elliot's Domestic and Social Anatomy, 4th edit. royal 18mo. 12s. 6d.
Fulford's Man of the World, 2d edit., 8vo. 6s. cl.
Goodrich's Myrtle and the Heather, 9 vols. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Griffith's Artillerist's Manual, 7th edit. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Hook's Parson's Daughter, new edit. 8vo. 2s. cl.
Hill's Life of Kenneth, Ascent of Mont Blanc, 2d edit. 5s. 6d.
Kemble's Pictures and Histories, 2d edit. 8vo. 6s. cl.
Kitt's (John D.D.) Memoirs, by Ryland, 2d edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Krause's Sermons, preached in Bethesda Chapel, Dublin, Second Series, Vol. 1, 8vo. cl.
Lancaster and West, 2s. 6d. cl.
Library of Old Authors, 'Southwark's Miscellaneous Works by Rimbault,' &c.; 'Southwell's Poetical Works,' by Turnbull, 4s.
London and Paris Picture-Book, super royal 4to. 2s. 6d. bds.
Macfarlane's Mountains of the Bible, 3d edit. or 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Marshall's (Rev. J.) Memoir, by his Son, 8vo. 5s. cl.

Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, 2d Series, Vol. 21, 8vo. 19s. 6d.
Meyer's Lillian's Golden Hours, illustrated, 8vo. 5s. cl.
Moir's (Rev. W.) Memoirs, by Reid, 12mo. 4s. cl.
John Mitchell's English and Welsh Grammar, 18mo. 1s. cl.-5s. cl.
Newman's Office and Work of Universities, &c. 8vo. 5s. cl.
Parley's Annual, 1857, square. 8s. cl.
Reichel's Statute and Offices of the Church, 8vo. 6s. cl.
Rich's Complete Treatise on Fevers, 2d edit. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Run and Read Library, 'Elton's Real Happiness,' &c. 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Solace in Sickness and Sorrow, Preface by Boucher, 32mo. 2s. 6d.
Songs of the Brave, Soldier's Dream, &c. Illust. 2d edit. 7s. 6d.
Strickland's Queens of Scotland, 2d edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
Todd's Commentary on the Sermon on the Mount, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Victory Won, new edit. 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Walsh's Manual of Domestic Economy, 8vo. 9vo. 10s. 6d. half-bd.
Weiss's New Translation and Exposition of Ecclesiastes, 8vo. 4s.
Westbrooks's Etchings and Pearls, 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Winslow's Atonement, 8th edit. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

Industrial Girls' Schools.

Nov. 12.

HAVING long been impressed with the general inefficiency of our girls' schools as places of discipline and instruction in the habits and arts most necessary to their future lives, whether as domestic servants or wives of working men, I lately heard with the greatest satisfaction that a school had been established in Norwich upon a more rational and wholesome plan. As it owes its existence to the liberality of one lady, who has had the wisdom to begin on the most moderate scale, it is not likely that it will attract public notice beyond the sphere of its immediate usefulness. This consideration combined with the conviction that the instruction given in it is precisely the thing wanted, and the want of which is manifesting itself in the most calamitous forms throughout our social fabric, induces me to ask for so much of your valuable space as will suffice to give some idea of its peculiar advantages.

The school, instituted and supported by Miss F. Martineau, of Bracondale, near Norwich, is an industrial school, but it differs from those commonly bearing that title in the extreme simplicity of its plan. Industrial schools are generally either large and expensive establishments where children of both sexes are boarded and lodged, or they are annexed to so-called national schools. The school in question has neither of these characters.

Two small adjoining houses in Norwich belonging to Miss Martineau having become vacant, she has thrown them into one, and devoted them entirely to her benevolent purpose. Nor could the most skilful architect devise anything better adapted to it. It affords that kind of accommodation which old houses alone contain:—every variety of pantry, cupboard, and place of stowage; rooms large and small, wash-houses, playground,—in short, a place for everything. Those who know the extreme difficulty of establishing a permanent relation between things and their allotted places in the minds of servants will appreciate the importance of this distribution of the house in forming the habits of the girls.

At the same time, Miss Martineau's school is free from a disadvantage which renders some of the large industrial establishments entirely unsuited to the training of girls as servants for the middle class. They are so furnished with all imaginable appliances and conveniences, that everything in a moderate, old-fashioned house becomes a difficulty and a hardship. There cannot be a more effectual way of encouraging indolence, both of thought and action, or of stifling invention and resource, than the surrounding a girl with the numerous mechanical aids devised by modern skill and science. The advantage possessed by a people accustomed to make shifts was but too manifest in the Crimea. One striking feature in English servants as compared with foreign ones is the prodigious crop of difficulties and "ill-conveniences" which rises around them on all sides.

For the course of instruction, I refer to the printed prospectus, which is the only sort of advertisement this establishment has had.

"Day School for Girls, under Government inspection, Upper King Street, Norwich. Established by, and under the superintendence of, Miss Martineau, assisted by Mrs. Barwell, and other friends of Education. The course of teaching will comprise Scripture and other Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Part-Singing, Outline Drawing, and English History. Besides the usual branches of an English Education, the children of the school will receive simple elementary instruction upon natural objects,

and upon those portions of general knowledge, calculated to assist in preparing them for the various duties and social obligations of life. Plain needlework, including the cutting-out, making, and mending of wearing apparel, will be particularly attended to. In order to give a practical acquaintance with the duties of a home, household education will be carried on under the direction and with the help of a housekeeper. It is intended to make the arrangements for this necessary part of educational training (hitherto so much neglected) really efficient. The school mistress will be prepared, by previous training, to adopt the best methods of teaching. There is a play-ground attached to the school-house, large enough to afford recreation and healthy refreshment at proper intervals. School hours from half past nine till four, with an interval of an hour for dinner. Arrangements will be made so that children bringing their dinner may have it served with due attention to comfort and order. Terms, 6d. per week. No child admitted under nine years of age. Holidays: a month at Christmas and Midsummer, and a week at Easter. The school opens October 1, 1856. Applications may be made at the school-house, every Monday in September, from twelve to two o'clock.—Bracondale, July 30."

This is the skeleton of the scheme, which differs in nothing from a common day-school, save in the things taught and the direction given to the tastes and habits of the pupils. Without seeing it in operation, it is impossible to imagine the life and energy which Miss F. Martineau and her excellent assistants have infused into it. The lessons on objects, those on arithmetic, and the writing were excellent. The attention of the children never flagged. Their eyes were fixed with eager inquiry on the cheerful, animated face of their young mistress. But excellence in these branches is not rare: Miss Martineau, in a letter now before me, touches the true points of superiority in her school and its mistress:—"I think myself very fortunate in having a mistress so capable of teaching the higher branches of knowledge, and yet so anxious to give an interest to all home and useful duties. The idea of taking pleasure in cutting out their own clothes, washing, &c., seems so new to the children."

According to Miss Martineau's wise plan of feeling her way, and attempting nothing on a large scale till she has proved its success on a small one, the girls at present wash only for the mistress and the housekeeper, who is their instructress in this department. She is one of those paragons of neatness, those finished artists in the great and complicated business of *cleaning*, who were formerly the boast of Norfolk, but of whom, I fear, only a few consummate specimens remain. It may interest some of your readers to know that the person to whom is entrusted the high office of initiating girls into the duties and delicate arts of a household, was the servant of the beloved and respected Amelia Opie, during the last years of her life.

On the same principle of slow and cautious advance, cooking has, as yet, not been attempted. This will come hereafter. Every needful appliance is ready. Meantime an important step in domestic education has been gained. Those of the girls who live at a distance bring their dinners. This humble repast is set out and eaten with the nicest attention to cleanliness and propriety. I saw the table exactly as it had been left by the girls who had just dined. Not a thing was out of its place, nor was there a trace of untidiness or disorder. The service of the table is performed by the girls in turn. They clear away the dishes and plates, knives and forks, clean them, and deposit them in their places. I saw one at her work, washing the earthen vessels, wiping, not smearing, them, and arranging them dry and bright on pantry shelves of spotless whiteness. It was with peculiar satisfaction that I soon afterwards saw the same girl come into the school and teach a class of younger girls arithmetic.

This, thought I, is the real type and expression of the life and duty of woman. Take it at whichever end of the social scale you will, there is nothing higher than this:—the comfort, order, and good government of the house, and the instruction of the young. To fit herself to fulfil these paramount duties of her sex, a woman must acquire qualities intellectual and moral, second to none possessed by man or woman. If this were the place for such an argument, I should not be afraid to take the field against all comers in support of my assertion. At present I must content myself with making it, thereby incurring the contempt of those of either sex who think such obscure duties a humiliating misapplication of the powers of woman.

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When I saw Miss Martineau's school it was only in the fourth week of its existence, and though nothing whatever had been done to give it notice, there were seventeen girls between the ages of nine and sixteen, and more were announced as desirous to come. This, considering the pay, which is comparatively high, and the age of the girls, which renders their services at home of value, may be regarded as remarkable success.

Sir Stafford Northcote said the other day in his speech at Dudley that the middle classes were apathetic about the education of the lower. He might have gone further, and have affirmed that the middle classes *disapprove* the education now given to the lower, especially of the female sex.

And with great reason. While the wives of small farmers and tradesmen find the girls furnished to them by the national schools so useless and subordinate, so ignorant of every useful work, and so little inclined to be taught, as they declare them to be, it is not likely that they will be very enthusiastic in favour of the establishments which supply so worthless an article. It would be easy to cite authorities without end to prove the truth of this assertion. One or two may suffice. A lady in Norfolk was told by a respectable farmer's wife in her neighbourhood, that she was contracting her dairy business as much as possible, solely because she could no longer "find a dairy-maid who could or would do her work properly." She added that she had gone the other day to the statute fair to look for one. There were plenty, but "not one who had not lace at the bottom of her sleeves; she came away without one."

If this is the state of things in agricultural districts, it is fully matched by the experience of tradeswomen in towns. A very neat and respectable dressmaker in a small town says, in like manner, that she is diminishing her business "because she can get no help. What the girls do, she has to undo." A Paris *lingère*, who comes to London every spring, well known to many of our ladies of fashion, has for the last three or four years gone to the expense of bringing over with her, and maintaining for several months, two French girls, because she could find none in London who could sew. "She tried it for two seasons, but found she had everything to undo." Such complaints are almost universal. How little do the philanthropic ladies and gentlemen who represent the employers of sempstresses as monsters of exaction and tyranny, know of the ceaseless vexation, fatigue, and loss to which they are exposed by the laziness, incompetence, and carelessness of those who receive their wages and undertake to execute their work. The situation of all women of business, of all housewifely mistresses of families, of all, in short, who are responsible for the execution of certain needful works, is becoming one of intolerable anxiety, care, and disappointment; and the encouragement given to incompetence and idleness by misplaced benevolence has contributed no little to increase the evil.

This is a digression from the main subject in hand; but I have been insensibly led into it by the consideration of the question, What is the system of education worth which tends to such results?

And, secondly, Is it not extremely important that something new should be attempted before the evil becomes utterly uneradicable?

But a far more vital question remains behind. What sort of wives to working men, what sort of mothers to families, are trained and produced by our schools?

This, if I am not greatly mistaken, is the root to which we must trace much of that bitter harvest of depravity and brutality of which we daily see examples in our newspapers.

It is now seven years ago that a man of singular intelligence, and of the widest and most intimate acquaintance with the working classes, foreman in an establishment in which he presided over five or six hundred of the best sort of artisans, uttered words which struck me as giving the dreariest insight into the condition and prospects of our working classes. I was making some inquiries concerning wages, and, hearing how large these

were, I expressed the hope, or rather expectation, that these men laid by money and were well off. Shocked at hearing that hardly one of them was worth a shilling, I inquired the reason—"was it vice, drunkenness?"—"No, those were rare exceptions; we could not employ drunks in our business. It is the bad management of the wives. The money is muddled away. To say the truth," added he, "there is no such thing now as a poor man's wife." What a sentence to pronounce on the homes of England! The admiration with which one witnesses the energetic and intelligent labours of this noble race of men is turned to pity when one thinks that all their wondrous skill and industry fails to secure to them the natural object and merited reward of man's toil—a comfortable home, and a decent provision for old age.

Anybody who has looked nearly into the incomings and outgoings of the working classes of England, and has had an opportunity of comparing them with those of France or Germany, must be compelled to admit that, whatever be their superiority in other respects, as administrators of the money provided by the head of the family, English women of the lower class are immeasurably behind their neighbours. Here, again, I can do no more than assert, unless I had space for an *exposé* of all the details of a household of each country. I can only say that any one who has examined into those details can entertain no doubt that the same sum of money goes twice as far in the hands of a French, as in those of an English woman. It is impossible to conceive the *gasplage* and improvidence which reigns in the lowest English households. The women buy improvidently, cook improvidently, and dress improvidently. The consequences are, want, debt, disorder, and all that can make a man's home comfortless and irritating, take from him all hope of improvement in his condition, all regard for so useless a partner, and drive him to the alehouse.

I was told the other day by a benevolent and enlightened clergyman, intimately acquainted with the habits and condition of the poor around him, that he knew but two good managers among the labourers' wives in his neighbourhood. It is frightful to think how this state of things has increased and is increasing. And, indeed, where are girls to learn the principles and arts of housewifery? Not of mothers who possess neither. Not at schools, where they learn to talk about things which they cannot understand, and to hear vaguely of duties which they are never taught to practise. And when at length they go out to service, and might learn from the more thrifty and careful class above them, the time is over. Habits of waste and negligence are fixed, and the only effect of the attempt to correct these is, to make them hate their employers. Ask any mistress of a family how many maid servants she has had whom she could conscientiously recommend as wives to working men.

Viewed under this aspect, the defects in the education of girls assume a gravity and importance which it is impossible to exaggerate. It is clear from the domestic discords of which we see only the extreme cases and fiercest results that the women of the working class have, to an afflicting extent, lost the respect and affection of their husbands. And what lasting hold has a woman of that class on the affection and respect of her husband, save through her qualities as a useful helpmate? The graces and accomplishments which come in aid of declining youth and beauty in the higher, have no existence for her.

The whole current of modern society appears to set in against the formation of that consummation of womanhood, the Housewife. In domestic service, the negligence, profusion, and absence of vigilant supervision on the part of employers; out of it, the factory, and the various ways in which girls are taught to earn, rather than to distribute, or to save money; everywhere, the delusive and corrupting cheapness and the preposterous style of dress, which affords every possible discouragement to neat and frugal habits of conservation and repair.†

† I cannot omit to mention here one of the modes of doing good suggested by the ingenuity of true charity. A lady who resides in Leeds, struck with the wretched igno-

All these influences, and many more, are directly hostile to the formation of the domestic virtues and talents in the lower classes. In the higher, luxury, the affectation of superiority to domestic employments, and the preference for public over private and obscure duties, which characterize our age, are no less fatal to the cultivation of the homely but venerable accomplishments which distinguished those illustrious ladies of former times, who governed their households with calm vigilance and intelligent authority. The notion that these accomplishments are inconsistent with high mental culture, refined taste, or feminine grace, is altogether false. The conduct of a household with order and economy makes large demands on the reason and on the faculties of observation and discernment, and leaves these faculties strengthened for their application to purely intellectual objects. The conduct of a household with grace and dignity makes large demands on the sense of fitness, harmony, and beauty, and ripens that sense for exercise on purely aesthetic objects.

Surely the slang now so much in vogue among young ladies (proh pudor!), does not seem to show that the neglect of domestic occupations is necessarily followed by refinement of the taste.

We hear much lamentation over the decline of filial obedience and reverence. Let it be remembered that the Woman whose "children rise up and call her blessed," whose "husband's heart doth safely trust in her," is She who "looketh well to the ways of her household," who "worketh willingly with her hands," and who employs her great faculties and noble sentiments, "strength," "wisdom," "charity," and "kindness," in the service and guidance of those whom God has committed to her charge. "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou exceedest them all."

This is the great model; and thousands of years have not worn out its grandeur or its beauty.

But if our times are little favourable to the growth of such virtues, so much the more is society indebted to those who endeavour to recall the young women of the working class to a sense of their true vocation, and a solicitude for their true interests. So much the more is society indebted to those who show that they, in their sphere, have not yet forgotten in what consists the true glory of woman, whether maid or matron, whether poor or rich, whether servant or mistress.

S. A.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

ACTIVE measures in favour of a bill for removing the pressure of our present taxes from Literary Institutions are being taken, we believe, so as to secure for it a better reception in the coming session of Parliament than the bill met with in the last.

The British Museum is beginning to experience the advantage of the labours of its new superintendent in the Natural History Division. At the College of Surgeons there is an *imperfect skeleton* of the gigantic Moa of New Zealand (*Dinornis giganteus*), but with the specimen recently brought from the North Island, New Zealand, by Mr. Mantell, Professor Owen has been enabled to build up a perfect skeleton of the Elephant-footed Moa (*Dinornis elephantopus*). The enormous development of the legs of this creature is one of the most singular features to be found in the whole bird creation. The present specimen is not so tall as that of the *Dinornis giganteus*, but it gives the impression of having been a more formidable animal. Formidable as it might have been, it appears to have had no chance with man, without wings to fly or feet to swim, and confined in an insular

range of all womanly works in which the factory girls grow up, has collected them in an evening, for the purpose of making and mending their clothes under her direction. My informant saw between seventy and eighty of them occupied in this way. Their benevolent instructor devotes to this work two evenings in every week. What is still more remarkable, she is accompanied by her husband, who enters in a book the orders of the girls, and keeps an account against each. Whatever they order is carried the next evening, cut out and prepared for them to make. And these admirable people have for years left the comforts of an opulent fireside to pass their evenings in one of the lowest parts of a manufacturing city, and in the society of factory girls! It would be a pleasure to give a name to such excellence, but as I have no warrant to do so, I forbear.

position. Not a single living *Dinornis* has yet been discovered, but bones exist in prodigious quantities.

Sir William Temple's collection of Antiquities left Naples by the Milan last Thursday, and will be in England about Saturday, the 29th inst.

Mr. Bogue, author and publisher, whose sudden death is among the startling announcements of the week, came of a respectable family in the county of Berwick, and was the nephew of Dr. Bogue, author of 'The Divine Authority of the New Testament.' In early life Mr. Bogue became assistant to Mr. Thomas Ireland, bookseller, of Edinburgh. While in this position Mr. Bogue was offered more lucrative engagements; but from a feeling of honour he refused to quit his ailing employer, and remained with him till his death. In 1836 Mr. Bogue came to London, bringing with him letters of introduction to Mr. Tilt, who immediately engaged his services—soon after took him into partnership—and in the course of two or three years retired from the business, leaving it entirely in the hands of Mr. Bogue. Mr. Bogue, although of a quiet, unassuming disposition, possessed great intelligence and untiring energy. He was the anonymous author of several works—chiefly books for children, which were received with favour. He was a man of enterprise, kind and generous in disposition, and of the strictest integrity. He was about forty-five years of age, and leaves a widow and five young children to mourn his loss. To the literary and publishing world it will be satisfactory to learn, that Mr. Tilt has undertaken for the present the management of Mr. Bogue's business.

Sir E. Bulwer Lytton has been elected in opposition to Lord Stanley, to the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University, by a large majority—the choice being made, we believe, as it should be made, on the purely literary ground.

The Earl of Ellesmere has been declared Lord Rector of King's College, Aberdeen, for four years.

The Committee of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution have recorded their sense of obligation to Mr. W. J. Roper, the Secretary, by presenting to that gentleman, at a special meeting of the Council, an elegant silver inkstand and salver, purchased by the private subscription of the Council. The testimonials were presented by the President, Sir Charles L. Eastlake. The salver bears the following inscription: "Presented, together with a silver inkstand, by the President and Council of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution to W. J. Roper, Esq., as an expression of their personal esteem, and testimonial of the high sense they entertain of his valuable and indefatigable services during forty years as Secretary. Sir C. L. Eastlake, P.R.A., President; C. R. Cockerell, Esq., R.A., Treasurer; J. H. Mann, Esq., V.P., Chairman of the Council." The inkstand and salver were designed and executed by Mr. Gilliam.

We read in the *Publishers' Circular*:—"Many of our readers may not be aware that by an Act of Parliament (10 & 11 Vict. cap. 95) the various colonial legislatures have power to permit the introduction and sale of pirated editions of English copyright books, the property of British publishers, on the collection of a fixed duty on the value of such books being imposed. This has been acted on in many instances, (we believe the Australian legislatures have not complied with the provisions of the Act,) and a sum of £671. has lately been distributed amongst the several publishers whose works have thus been imported, or rather whose property has been confiscated for the amusement and intellectual cultivation of the colonies. The duty has been fixed in most of the colonies at not less than 20 per cent., but in Jamaica at 15, and in Canada at only 12½ per cent. In this latter colony a deduction has been made, for the cost of collection, of about 45 per cent. on the amount. Upon this the Treasury Minute on the subject remarks, that as the absolute prohibition imposed by former Acts of Parliament had been removed, on the condition of reasonable protection being secured to British authors, it is obvious that a net profit of less than 7 per cent. on the value of foreign reprints of the works

of a British author imported into Canada, especially when the exceedingly low price is considered at which such reprints are produced, cannot afford anything approaching to adequate provision for the rights which the author possessed within the province by virtue of his copyright." Our contemporary asks whether, when the Act was passed, either British authors or publishers were consulted about it, or any inquiry was made whether they were willing to yield up the rights they possessed under the Copyright Act. To this question of the trade oracle we will add another—Has any author whose works have been imported to the colonies, received any portion of the £671. which has been lately distributed?

Mr. Yarrell's books, dispersed by Mr. J. C. Stevens, have realized 1,100*l.* A few of the prices may be separately noted:—for example, Gould's 'Birds of Europe' brought 91*l.*,—the same writer's 'Birds of Australia,' 79*l.*,—the same writer's 'Humming Birds,' 23*l.*,—Gray's 'Genera of Birds,' 16*l. 5s.*,—Macgillivray's 'Natural History of Deeside and Braemar,' 7*l.*,—the first edition of Bewick's 'History of British Birds,' 5*l. 15s.*,—Walton and Cotton's 'Complete Angler,' with many additional illustrations inserted by Mr. Yarrell, 9*l.*,—Sir J. E. Smith's 'English Botany,' 5*l.*,—Harvey's 'History of British Sea Weeds,' 5*l. 5s.*,—Hewitson's 'British Oology,' with coloured illustrations, 5*l.*,—the same work with plain plates, 4*l. 8s.*,—Forbes and Hanley's 'History of British Mollusca and their Shells,' 12*l.*,—Audubon's 'Birds of America,' 36*l.*,—the same writer's 'Ornithological Biography,' 10*l. 10s.*,—'Zoology of the Beagle,' 7*l. 10s.*,—Smith's 'Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa,' 13*l. 10s.*,—Prof. Owen's 'Odontography,' 9*l. 15s.* Copies of Mr. Yarrell's own works also sold for good prices.

The German journals announce that the "Schillerhaus" at Gobels has been purchased, on the 11th of November (Schiller's birthday), for a sum of 2,100 thalers, by the Leipzig Schillerverein. The "Schillerstube" has thus escaped the danger of falling into profane hands.

When Goethe published (in 1828 and 29) his Correspondence with Schiller, he resolved to suppress everything that might be unpleasant or offending to the feelings of any person living;—an excellent resolution, which, however, has not been followed up throughout. Thus it happened that many letters were altogether laid aside; in others, certain passages were omitted; and most names were either changed or marked with initials,—and even these were not always to be relied upon. A number of smaller notes were likewise put aside of no importance, although they helped to throw a pleasant light on the friendly intercourse, social and poetical, of the two great men. The MS. letters were, after print, sealed up by Goethe's own hand, with the injunction that, before the year 1850, the seal should not be broken, and no complete edition of the correspondence be contemplated. The breaking of the seal took place in the year named, in the presence of Schiller's and Goethe's heirs, but the publication was delayed, and only quite recently the complete correspondence has appeared, at Cotta's, edited by Dr. Hermann Hauff. The correspondence, as it is now laid before us, adds, it is true, no new important feature to the almost unique spectacle of the mutual intercourse of the two poets, yet many an interesting detail appears in fresher and livelier colours, and many a curious remark affords welcome material for the literary historian. Here and there we hit upon a severer criticism, and the mentioning of names, hitherto suppressed, makes an end of many doubts and vague suggestions. In the former edition several of the letters went by a false date,—a fact which has been noticed and censured before. The present editor has tried to avoid the mistakes of the former arrangement, but he has not always succeeded. Misplacements of the letters still occur, as, for instance, No. 127 evidently ought to stand before 121, and No. 787 before 783. The number of the letters amounts at present to 999, while the first edition contained only 971. A careful and complete Index, too, has not been omitted this time.

The friends of Berthold Auerbach will be glad to learn that he has just published another of his admirable "Schwarzwälder Dorfgeschichten." It is entitled 'Barfusse,' and tells the story of poor little Amrei, a barefooted village maiden, the goosherd of the hamlet of Haldenbrunn. The tale, we are happy to find, has not been written to illustrate (like most of Auerbach's later "Dorfgeschichten") some social or political tendency of the author, but keeps itself strictly within the bounds of a psychological picture. The interest which it creates is purely human.

"Ever since the night when the earthquake shook all Naples," writes a Correspondent, under date November 3, "Vesuvius has been in a state of great agitation. Vast masses of smoke have been continually rolling forth, and on some evenings the spectacle has been very brilliant, in consequence of the great body of fire which has been thrown forth. The following report of Vincenzo Cozzolino will have some interest for the readers of the *Athenæum*. 'On the night of the 11th and 12th of October,' he says, 'I was on Vesuvius with a French family, and such was the noise it made, that the whole of the crater trembled, and the mountain was riven to its very centre in the direction of Torre del Greco, so that the funnel in this direction was filled up. From the 23rd to the 27th ult. three streams of lava were seen to issue from three mouths which were formed within the new crater. These three mouths throw out large and small red-hot stones beyond the crater. In the crater of 1850 a mouth has been formed which throws out red-hot ashes as though it were a display of fireworks: its action is unceasing, and the effect is wonderfully beautiful to those who are on the summit. I asked my family if they had heard anything at Resina on the night of the 11-12th, and they answered that they heard as though it were the noise of an earthquake.' This report is signed by Cozzolino, the 28th of October; and, perhaps, every other night at intervals, the mountain makes some mighty efforts, and throws out a brilliant mass of fire. Vesuvius is so capricious that one would scarcely like to risk his prophetic character by predicting anything regarding its movements, but appearance would certainly justify the expectation of a considerable eruption within the crater. It is now in full eruption, and at times, as I have announced, the ashes, stones, and flames are thrown high into the heavens, forming a grand display. Such were some of the signs which preceded the last great eruption."

Everybody knows that 6 feet square is 36 square feet; and also that 6 times 6 is 36. From this a very great number of young mathematicians, and even some old ones, imagine that 6 feet multiplied by 6 feet gives 36 square feet. From thence they pass to money; and, *rem Deo improbabili*, multiply 6 shillings by 6 shillings. We take it for almost a rule, that whenever passengers are shut up on board ship for a six weeks' voyage, among the attempts to kill time will be a discussion whether 197. 19*s.* can be multiplied by itself. One says it cannot be done: because multiplying is taking a number of times; and 6 shillings can be taken six times, but six shillings taken six shillings times is unmeaning. Another agrees, and says that, though 6 shillings can be repeated as many times as there are hairs in a horse's tail, yet the process cannot be called multiplying 6 shillings by a horse's tail. But a third declares it can be done, and that he used to do it at school. Then follows a bet, which is referred to some known arithmetician. In one of these bets which came under our knowledge, the party who maintained that 6 shillings cannot be a multiplier was fully possessed by the idea that 6 feet multiplied by 6 feet is 36 square feet; and he grounded his opposition to the money process on the fact that there is no square money. The arbiter of the bet silly asked him whether his objection would not be altogether got rid of by making postage stamps legal tender. Another class of mathematicians, in their repudiation of multiplying by a concrete, contrive to think that division of the same kind is equally impossible. They are afraid to pronounce a division of 12*s.* by 3*s.*; they think such a fraction as $\frac{2s. 6d.}{7s. 3d.}$ is an absurdity, and if it were asked

what time, hours, to mult those wh practical 2*s.* 6*d.* nce, direct q of arith want of received a that he had rec momenta forgotten book unposed, n exquisit turn the over to be plod into far put in piece, the he would once di cheated upon de professes

ALBERT ALEXANDER, tainment, EVENING entirely re- seen, and con- Mont Blanc Baden by Chillon, Nyon, Schloss, or moonlight paints on the lake. The picture of Mr. Wil- rama, from P. Phillips, will be as good as the Evening Children—A person may be a Separate Box.

DR. KAL- Leister S. Containing every part of the Evening Box.

ROYAL THEATRE MONTE CARLO, JOHN LASA- DON, view of the REFORM ACT, THE MISTRESS, DARRY.—A Hours see

GEOL- dent, in Eque, y- grapher. Prof. O. small ma lower ja obtained field-slat- Oticus described. Asso- in the a extinc- Hyrcanus of the T before, tha

what time there is in the preceding fraction of six hours, they would indignantly ask how they were to multiply hours by shillings and pence. But those who see a little further tell them that it is practicable to take such a fraction of six hours as 2s. 6d. or of 7s. 3d. Nevertheless, some countenance is given to their fear by the absence of direct questions of division of concretes in books of arithmetic. But the defect is not from any want of perception. A contractor who had received articles at 9d. a-piece, and remembered that he paid 61s. 16s. 7s. 3d., forgot how many he had received, and thought he could find out in a moment. To his surprise, he found that he had forgotten how; and on looking to his old school-book under division he found he had, as he supposed, never been taught! The fact is, that our exquisite system of money has induced writers to turn this question of division, and others like it, over to the rule of three, or elsewhere. It cannot be ploddingly attacked without turning both sums into farthings. In a decimal coinage, it would be put in its proper place. If, at 3 cents 4 mils a-piece, the contractor had paid 54s. 7d. 7c. 4m., he would find out how many he paid for by at once dividing 54774 by 34. And thus we have cheated a few readers into thinking for a moment upon decimal coinage who would have skipped a professed article on the subject,—which was to be done.

Mr. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC via BADEN.—Mr. ALBERT SMITH has the honour to announce that his Entertainment will COMMENCE for the SEASIDE on MONDAY EVENING, the 24th inst. During the four Rooms will be open for the decoration of the Areas, which will be divided into separate seats; and several minor alterations made, which, it is hoped, will contribute to the increased comfort of the audience. The route to Mont Blanc this year will be by the Rhine and Heidelberg to Baden-Baden, thence by Bâle and the Chambon, returning by Bâle and Geneva to Paris and Bourg-en-Bresse. Among the New Views painted by Mr. William Beverley, will be the Altérchöse, Old Castle, at Baden, from the rocks; the Interior of the Bains; the Promenade in front of the Conversation House, by moonlight; the Area of Mont Blanc, with some new sketches on the Glacier, from original sketches and photographs lately taken; and the Grande Rue at Boulougne on Market-day. The other Views have also been painted by, or under the direction of Mr. William Beverley, with the exception of the Rhine Panorama, which was done by H. H. Williams, and by Mr. Phillips, from original sketches lately made by him. The Entertainment will introduce several new acquaintances; and will be, as before, chiefly devoted to sketches of "The Travelling English" and their autumnal continental peculiarities. Tickets of admission: 1s. for the Areas, and 2s. 6d. for the Hall, to be taken in advance from the pian at the Hall every day from Eleven to Four without any extra charge. It is respectfully intimated that no bonnets can be allowed in the Stalls or in the Balcony at the Evening Performances. Areas of the Hall, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. 6d.; and the Areas of the Bains, 1s. 6d. No boxes or boxes for persons, may be had on application. Half-a-Guinea. With an extra chair, 1s. 4d. A Private Balcony, for nine persons, 1s. 2s. 6d. Separate Seats in the Balcony, 2s. 6d. each. Egyptian Hall, 1s. 6d.

Dr. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry Street, Leicester Square.—OPEN, for Gentlemen only, from 10 till 10. Combining upwards of 1,000 Models and Preparations, illustrating every part of the Human Frame. Health, Disease, and Diseases of Men. Sc. Lectures are delivered at 13, 2, and half-past 7, by Dr. SEXTON, F.R.G.S.; and at 4 P.M. precisely, by Dr. KAHN.—Admission, One Shilling.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—J. TELL TOPHAM, Esq. will Lecture TUESDAY Evening, the 24th, at Eight, on THOMAS MOORE. JOHN LEAR, Esq., will repeat his important Lecture on LONDON, viewed from the GREAT CHARTER OF SANITARY REFORM, the 25TH, at Eight. A Lecture on the "SCHOOL ACT" on TUESDAY Evening, the 25th, at Eight.—Lecture on the CHEMISTRY OF FIREWORKS, with brilliant illustrations by Mr. DARNY.—Also, Lecture on BESEMER'S new PROCESS, for the Manufacture of Steel, by Mr. J. TELL TOPHAM.—J. TELL TOPHAM, Esq. entitled LIFE IN THE WEST, illustrated by beautiful DISSOLVING VIEWS, painted by G. HARVEY, Esq., every Morning and Evening, at 9.15 and 9.15, except on Wednesday, when the hours are 3.30 and 6.—THE DISSOLVING VIEWS OF LIFE IN THE WEST, with the MEXICAN WAR, and the MEXICAN FIGURES OF MEXICAN LIFE and the Two Works of Art—Admission to the whole, 1s.: Children and Schools, half-price.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

GEOLICAL.—Nov. 5.—Col. Portlock, President, in the chair.—G. Brand and R. B. Smyth, Esq.s, were elected Fellows.—On the *Stereognathus Ooliticus*, from the Stonesfield-slate, by Prof. Owen.—The subject of this paper was a small mammal, represented by a fragment of a lower jaw, retaining three molar teeth, which was obtained by the Rev. J. Dennis from the Stonesfield-slate of Oxfordshire, and named *Stereognathus Ooliticus* by Mr. E. Charlesworth. This specimen described in detail by Prof. Owen at the British Association Meeting in September last, indicated, in the author's opinion, an animal allied to some extinct genera of even-toed pachyderms, viz., the *Hyracotherium*, *Microtherium*, and *Hyopotamus* of the Tertiary deposits; and he concluded, therefore, that the *Stereognathus* was most probably a

diminutive non-ruminant Artiodactyle of omnivorous habits.

STATISTICAL.—Nov. 18.—James Bird, Esq. M.D. in the chair.—S. L. Laundy, Esq. and W. Lewis, M.D. were elected Fellows.—Mr. Lumley, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read a brief statement of the proceedings of the *Congrès de Biensaisance*, held at Brussels from the 15th to the 20th of September last.—A paper by the Rev. John Clay, B.D. Chaplain of the Preston House of Correction, 'On the Relation between Crime, Popular Instruction, Attendance on Religious Worship and Beer-houses,' was read. The author commenced by stating the difficulty of comparing the criminality of various counties, owing to the custom prevalent in large towns and thickly-peopled districts of dealing summarily with cases, which would elsewhere be made subjects of indictment. In speaking of Education, he remarked on the good effects of the intercourse between the wealthier and poorer classes, resulting from the active part taken by many ladies as Sunday-school teachers, and expressed his regret that young men were not forthcoming in greater numbers for a similar object. Tables followed, showing the proportions in the several counties of attendants at religious worship and at schools, of criminals, and of the number of beer-houses. From these tables he conceived that the following conclusion might be drawn:—

"It is manifest that the amount of crime in a county mainly depends upon the number of low drinking-houses which are suffered to infest it; that our present system of popular education is of little or no efficacy in saving the industrial classes from the moral dangers created by those drinking-houses; and that the diffusion of religious principles (as tested by the attendance on religious worship), which seems most deficient in densely-peopled counties, has not been promoted by the Sunday School system, or other popular systems, to the extent which the friends of those systems can consider satisfactory." A discussion followed, in which the following gentlemen took part, viz.:—Mr. Elliott, Dr. Guy, Mr. Lumley, Mr. Newmarch, Dr. Farr, and the Chairman; and it appeared to be the general opinion of the speakers, that the statistical returns quoted in the paper were, from various causes, insufficient as a base for the conclusion of the author.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 11.—Dr. Gray in the chair.—Mr. Gould exhibited a beautiful series of Grouse and Ptarmigan, collected in the Dovrefjeld during his recent visit to Norway, illustrating the very interesting changes which take place in those birds from the nestling state to the adult plumage.—Dr. Gray described a new species of Squirrel, which had been transmitted from Sarawak by Mr. Wallace to the British Museum. It is of considerable size, measuring twenty-four inches in extreme length. The ears are largely developed, and terminated by a pencil of remarkably elongated hair, from which Dr. Gray was induced to give it the name of *Sciurus macrotis*.—The Secretary read two papers by Mr. Fairholme. The first contained some interesting particulars respecting the habits of the Porpoises inhabiting the "South Passage" of Moreton Bay, where they combine with the natives at Amity Point in fishing for mullet. The other paper gave an account of the "Yungan" or Australian Dugong, *Halicore Australis*, which although still found in considerable numbers at the southern extremity of Moreton Bay, especially on the islet of St. Helena, is rapidly decreasing in consequence of the systematic chase of it in whale-boats which the natives have recently adopted. They prefer the flesh and blubber of the Dugong to any other food; and the settlers have found in its oil qualities similar to those of cod-liver oil, for which they have used it successfully as a substitute.—Mr. Cuming communicated two papers, by Dr. Dunker of Marburg, on new species of Shells, from his own collection, chiefly referable to the genera *Mytilus*, *Volsella*, *Modiolarca*, *Lanistina*, *Crenella*, *Trochus*, *Bulla*, *Pleurotoma*, *Trophon*, *Cominella*, *Adamsia*, *Purpura*, *Cytherea*, and *Pectunculus*.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 3.—W. W. Saunders, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. A. F. Sheppard

exhibited *Acronycta Alni* and *Phibalapteryx gemmata*, taken near Brighton.—Mr. Stevens exhibited a fine specimen, in its natural state, of the wax secreted by *Coccus pelta*, sent from China by Mr. Fortune; also the full-grown larva of *Agrotis Ashworthii*.—Mr. H. Cooke sent for exhibition a specimen of *Leucania vitellina*, a species new to Britain, taken near Brighton; also *Leucania muscosa*, *Phlogophora emporea*, and *Laphygma exigua*, from the same locality, during the past season.—Mr. Douglas exhibited two specimens of *Brontes planatus*, found under the loose bark of a felled lime-tree, near Lee.

Mr. Stainton exhibited the cocoon of a species of *Tinea* from Ceylon, attached to a footstalk, similar to that of the *Bombyx Cynthia* of India.—Mr. Adams exhibited *Polistichus fasciatus* from Sheerness, and *Trechus nanus* from Mickleham; also six specimens of the rare *Drypta emarginata*, and a larva presumed to pertain to the latter species.—Mr. Weir exhibited *Anthribus albinus* captured at Pembury, Kent.—Mr. Smith exhibited a specimen of *Cybister limbatus*, having the head of the larva, instead of that of the perfect insect: it was taken alive by Mr. Bowring, at Hong Kong.—The Secretary read an extract from a letter sent by G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq., from Ceylon, to Mr. Spence, on the economy of a species of spider found in that island.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 18.—G. P. Bidder, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—After the paper 'On the Improvement of Railway Locomotive Stock,' by Mr. D. K. Clark, a communication was brought forward, claiming for Mr. J. Kennedy, of Liverpool, the merit of having first introduced a locomotive with horizontal cylinders and a cranked axle, inasmuch as it was asserted that they were first applied by Mr. Kennedy in the Liverpool, which was stated to have been started on the 22nd of July, 1830, and was employed in aiding in the construction of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.—After the meeting, Mr. Roger Salter explained two models of his Self-acting Penstocks, or Flushing Machines, for cleansing house-drains and sewers.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Nov. 19.—Col. W. H. Sykes, Chairman of Council, in the chair.—Messrs. F. Benham, J. L. Benham, P. Dudgeon, Rev. J. Hill, B.D., W. S. Masterman, and B. Shaw were elected members.—Col. W. H. Sykes, as Chairman of the Council, delivered the Address on the opening of the Session. He commenced by alluding to the redecoration and lighting of the Great Room of the Society, and contrasted the Society's position now and ten years since, when it became necessary to borrow 1,000£.; while at the present time, in the place of borrowing, the Society had carried out its alterations, and paid off one half of the debt at the same time. The increased accommodation to the members, by the opening a reading-room for their use, was pointed out. The necessity for a new house and premises when the Society's lease expired, ten years hence, was adverted to. In speaking of the medals awarded at the close of the last session, Col. Sykes took occasion to remark on the importance of the subject for which the gold medal had been given, viz., to Mr. C. W. Williams, for his Essay 'On the Smoke Nuisance.' After touching on the Rating of Institutions, the Patent Laws, the Society's new Premium List, International Commercial Law and Tribunals of Commerce, Col. Sykes referred to the annually increasing excess of the amount of imports over the exports connected with the trade between this country and India and China, thereby causing an enormous drain of silver to pay for the excess. He pointed out the importance of our manufacturers adapting their manufactures to the habits and tastes of the 150 millions of India, who might be induced to take our goods, instead of requiring payment in specie. He called attention to the Trade Museum now formed at the India House, where manufacturers would have a ready means of seeing what the people of India required. Col. Sykes closed his address by advertizing to the necessity of increased education, as a means by which not only the social condition of the masses would be improved, but progress in arts, manufactures and commerce secured; and he called atten-

tion to the effort now making by the Society of Arts to accomplish that object, by establishing examinations for students of classes in Mechanics' Institutions.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Nov. 11.—J. Lee, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. Bonomi read a paper 'On the Metaphorical Sculptures of Egypt,' illustrated by drawings made from the monuments. The object was, to show that many metaphorical expressions in the Bible were exactly embodied in some of the sculptures. As for instance, the well-known reliefs on the towers of the gateways to almost all the temples of that country, whether built by a Pharaoh or a Ptolemy, representing the king striking off the heads of a group of supplicants, was not a sacrifice, but a metaphorical sculpture exactly embodying the 40th and 41st verses of the 18th Psalm. So likewise the metaphor contained in the sentence, "Until I make thine enemies thy footstool," is constantly embodied in the statues of the Pharaohs, which are usually sculptured in a sitting position, with their feet on a stool or block, on which is engraved a string of captives. But the most speaking evidence of this metaphor, common to both descendants of Heber and Mizraim, is to be found on a mummy in the British Museum, on the soles of whose shoes is painted the figure of a prisoner belonging to a nation the most constant and determined enemy of Egypt.—Dr. Bell read a few notes illustrative of the same subject, to the effect that there was at Constantinople the statue of an Emperor on horseback trampling on a prisoner, like the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius in the Capitol, which the Doctor thought had at one time a similar statue of a man under the horse's feet. The equestrian statue at Constantinople had been removed by some conqueror of that city, who imagined that he would thereby secure the city to himself and successors for ever. From this prejudice of olden time (illustrated also by the horse-foot found among the terra-cottas of Tarsus) Dr. Bell traces the vulgar belief in the efficacy of a horseshoe, nailed to the door of a house or the mast of a ship, to preserve them and their inmates from peril or misfortune.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Institute of Actuaries, 7.—'On the Rate of Interest for the Use of Money in Ancient and Modern Times,' Part I., by Mr. Hodges.

— Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' by Prof. Partridge.

Geographical, 8.—'Plan for a Further Search after the Remains of the Franklin Expedition,' by Lieut. Pim, R.N.—Letter from Dr. Vogel 'On the Ivory Trade of Central Africa,' &c.

TUES. Hospital, 8.—'Microscopic,' &c.—General and Council.

— Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'On Recent Improvements in Water Meters,' by Mr. Jopling.

Zoological, 9.—'Scientific.'

Microscopical, 8.—'Microscopic,' &c.

WED. Royal Society, 8.—'On Indian Fibres,' by Dr. Royle.

— Royal Society of Literature, 8.—'On the Recent Discovery of Saxon Graves at Winstan, in Derbyshire,' by Mr. Bateman.—'On an Ancient Latton Feretrum,' by Mr. Gunning.—'On Roman Encampments,' by Mr. Vere Irving.

THURS. Society of Antiquaries, 8.

SAT. Royal, 8.—'Botanical,' &c.—Anniversary.

FINE ARTS

POWERS'S SYSTEM OF MODELLING.

Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, Nov. 17.

Mr. Powers's process of sculpture modelling in plaster of Paris was most courteously explained to me in a detailed manner by himself, at Florence, in the year before last. He reverts to literal sculpture, manufacturing in the first place a block of sulphate of lime, (bounded merely by the rough outlines of his intended statue,) which he then cuts down, by means of hatchets and chisels, to the more accurate figure, and finishes by means of spuds and files of his own invention.

The original block is constructed in a masonry of small bricks of "gesso," laid in plaster, and of dimensions varying from three to four inches long by two to two-and-a-half inches wide, and about three-quarters to one inch thick. These, piled together, become a homogeneous mass of sulphate of lime, and an easily workable artificial stone. The block so made is next chipped down to the required size, the component limbs and trunk being hewn out of the solid, principally by the aid of small and light chisels and hammers. Upon the

scaly chipped surface of the figure in this state (when it resembles a lepidodendron more than anything else), the modelling of the muscles and features is effected in a paste of plaster, dabbed on with trowels, floats, and finally spuds of various sizes. The finished surface of the nude is lastly worked up by hollow files, pierced at one end, like a cullender, with holes, half round which a tooth is raised. These files are extremely effective; they are made by the artist himself, of every shape, size, and curvature, and rasp the dry plaster away beautifully, leaving a pleasant texture of surface. With great kindness Mr. Powers explained their usefulness to an architect for making building models,—and authorized me, as a brother-in-craft, to make any use of their principle, although patented, that I might find architecturally valuable.

In the fingers and extremities of the plaster model, copper wires are inserted, being the only representatives of the unwieldy mass of iron framework necessary for the setting up and support of a clay model; and these wires, by their ductility, afford sufficient liberty for changing the pose and attitude of members, if, as the work proceeds, occasion arises for so doing. A finger, for instance, requires to be more bent;—it is sawn through to the wire at the joint, the wire is twisted into the required position, and a fresh modelling of the joint-muscles is alone required. The wires, in fact, take the place of bones.

For finishing the limbs of his figures with that extreme nicety which he does, Mr. Powers adopts a bold and novel mode. He has invented a vice,—which is set upon a ball-and-socket joint,—and has, by virtue of raising and depressing screws, every possible variety of motion. This instrument is the perfection of ingenuity. The sculptor cuts off from his figure an arm, a head, a leg, when modelled sufficiently for his purpose, and, fixing it in the vice, turns, twists, scrapes and polishes it at his ease, to the most detailed finish. In cutting off, a dowel is inserted into one side of the cut, and a mortice-hole left in the other,—and these are so arranged, with regard to a groove which is first made on the outside of the limb, as to insure an absolute accuracy in refitting. By arrangements of this kind the working of the torso is rendered much less difficult than when covered in part by limbs stretching before it,—and the finishing of the nude to that exactness which Mr. Powers always adopts before touching the drapery, becomes a less tedious operation.

The several advantages obtained by his system Mr. Powers explained to be—the saving of one whole operation, viz., casting, the model itself being used for the points; the convenience of being able at any time to put aside or resume a study without that intervening watchfulness, and care in moistening and covering up, which a clay model requires; the more absolutely sculpturesque nature of the designing itself; the facility of bending the extremities when modelled by means of their central wiry bones, which would only cut through instead of moving the clayey limbs; the saving of time and labour, by remodelling a portion only, instead of a whole limb, when slightly altered in position; and, lastly, the better anatomical exactitude with which members detached from the body may, as members, be worked. J. KNOWLES, Jun.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—An original picture by Raphael belonging to the Royal Collection has been lately rescued from oblivion at Hampton Court. It seems to be the portrait of Raphael by his own hand, which was described by Passavant in his tour in England as existing in Kensington Palace at the time of his visit. Since that period many of the choicest pictures have been removed to Hampton Court, in order to afford the public a free enjoyment of them, and this appears to have been overlooked in the transit. The words "Raffaello Urbino fec." are inscribed on the button of the painter's dress.

A great and important change has been recently effected in the Cartoon Gallery at Hampton Court, although no alteration will be perceptible to the public. They will be glad, however, to learn that measures have been taken towards the further preservation of Raphael's cartoons in case of fire.

Hitherto, these enormous works have been fixtures against the wall, and so great was their size that in case of any sudden necessity it would have been impossible to get them out of the windows. Now, by means of a very simple and clever machinery, the cartoons can be slid down from their usual level to touch the ground, moving as easily with balanced weights as the sash of an ordinary window. In case of need for artists to study, these massive works can be detached from the line in which they slide, and be turned round in any direction best suitable to the student. More than this, the cartoons themselves have been fitted upon newly-made strainers, which may in an instant, by unbuttoning, be detached from the frames; and the strainers are constructed with a joint in the middle, so as to bend forward and fold the cartoon horizontally, to facilitate the transport. It is to be hoped, indeed, that no necessity may arise to need these arrangements to be put into requisition; but it is some comfort to think that these inestimable works are no longer subject to be consumed with the walls upon which they are hung.

The following note on the charges preferred by the editor of a contemporary against the late Joseph Powell needs no introduction:—

"4, Lancaster Place, Strand, Nov. 17.

"You have inserted two letters concerning certain observations of mine on the late Mr. Powell: in the second, you have circulated an insinuation against my integrity. I ask for, and expect you will give, publicity to my emphatic denial that I 'deducted from the stipulated price' I was to pay for drawings executed by Mr. Powell. It is utterly untrue to say that I did so by him or by any other person at any time during my life. With respect to the late Mr. Powell, I have now no doubt that I formed an entirely wrong opinion of his character. I will not add to the grievance by stating the circumstances out of which this impression arose; but I feel assured that I did injustice to his memory, and deeply regret my error, for which I have made all the amends I could. Your obedient servant,

"THE EDITOR OF 'THE ART JOURNAL.'

Mr. Marshall has completed a statue of Captain Coram, founder of the Foundling Hospital, the cost of which is defrayed by a private subscription. Hogarth had fortunately left us the lineaments of this unobtrusive philanthropist. The statue, which stands at the entrance-gates of the institution in Guildford Street, honours a worthy man's memory and embellishes an open space much needing artistic adornment.

Dr. Henry Wellesley, of Oxford, so generally known for his exquisite taste and profound knowledge of Italian literature, and for his extensive collection of works of art, has placed his treasures of drawings by the old masters, especially rich in the finest specimens of Raphael, Michael Angelo, Titian, Claude, and Janet, at the disposal of the Manchester Art-Treasures Exhibition. He has done so without reserve, and Professor Johnson also of Oxford, with his magnificent collection of engravings and drawings, has responded to the application of the Committee, cordially. Prince Albert has offered a series of photographs from the original drawings by Raphael in the Royal Collection which, being inserted in volumes, could not otherwise be shown to the public.

The presentation by Her Majesty of six portrait-statues to the new Museum at Oxford has afforded some of our young sculptors an opportunity of exhibiting their powers in subjects as fine of their kind as sculptors could desire. The statues, which are all of men illustrious in the history of modern science and philosophy, are to be executed in Caen stone, of the size of life, and are to be placed against the pillars in the grand hall of the Museum. Of two statues intrusted to Mr. Alexander Munro, one—the statue of Galileo—was completed some time ago; and on the other—that of Newton—Mr. Munro, we believe, is at present engaged. Another of the six statues, assigned to another young sculptor—Mr. Thomas Woolner—is at this moment being completed in the stone. The subject is Lord Bacon—a subject which, if its capabilities are considered, is certainly about the most difficult and splendid of the six. We shall find an occasion, when Mr. Woolner's statue is publicly exhibited, to say

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how far his treatment of the subject corresponds with its capabilities and entitles us to recognize in him, as the artist, another of the young hopes of our higher English sculpture. Mr. Woolner has aimed at combining likeness in portraiture with a deeply-conceived and well-studied idea of the characteristically Baconian look and attitude. The authorities consulted for the likeness have been the picture by Van Somer and a terra-cotta bust of Bacon when a boy (both in the possession of Lord Verulam at Gorhambury), together with the old statue in St. Michael's Church, St. Albans. In the look and attitude, the philosopher is fixed, as it were, in the very act of affirming and iterating the cardinal maxim of his *Organum* in the presence of a resisting or reluctant company of academic hearers. A robe envelopes his erect and spare figure; the head is bent forward and downward; the concentration of the features indicates the intensity with which the proposition that fills the brain is finding utterance at the mouth; and the action is farther signified by the hands, the fingers of one of which are being pressed or struck, as if in emphasis, against, and into the palm of the other.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—EXETER HALL.—Conductor Mr. Conder. On FRIDAY, November 25, Handel's *Sacred Harmonic Society* will be performed. Soloists—Miss Palmer, Mr. Thomas, Miss Maudlin, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Thomas, with Orchestra of nearly 700 Performers. Tickets 2s., 5s., and 10s. 6d., or Season Subscriptions, One, Two, or Three Guineas each, may be had at the Society's Office, No. 6 in Exeter Hall.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—Handel's *Israel*.—Every enthusiast will find something real to say—something which has not been said before—concerning 'Lear,' 'Macbeth,' the new *Shylock*, or (should such an apparition ever come on the stage) the true *Cleopatra* of Shakspeare. Thus it is in Music, with the great works of Handel. Since his time much has been done:—countless discoveries have been made—an amount of careful and precautionary cleverness has been brought into composition, worthy and honourable in those who have put it out to interest. But whereas other glories wane, or become familiar, Handel's only brightens and stands more apart from common mortality. Let the French (let the Germans, even, with small exception) talk of our English Handel-worship as an excess of that pious credulity which makes pilgrims (as *Isaac of York* said in 'Ivanhoe'), "walk a-foot to visit the graves of dead men." In this they do not speak maliciously so much as without knowledge, because Handel's works are unknown in France, and only passably given in Germany. In the latter country the Haydns, Mozarts, Beethovens, Mendelssohns, have successively "veiled their bonnets" to the author of the 'Messiah' and 'Israel,' as greatest of the great. It has been left for their successors, who can neither think, nor pour out a melody, nor produce a chord which shall not set teeth on edge, to vent their trashy talk about Handel's *roulades*, *rococo* fancies, and the like. What matters their talking? It belongs to our time. Have we not lived to hear prints pedants, "close buttoned to the chin," (though without the "warm heart within," which should complete the quotation), speak impertinently of the great Italian's *Sibylia Delphica* and *Sibylia Erythrea* on the Sistine ceiling, in favour of some semi-squinting and altogether dislocated *Byzantine Madonna*. The poppy will pass among other of the epidemics of conceit and ignorance—the immortal thing remains and will remain.

It may be that the talk of centenaries and celebrations which has been current of late, has quickened the flow of thoughts like the above; but they recurred to us on Wednesday evening while listening to 'Israel' with the force of a new sensation. Who but Handel could have written that marvellous series of choruses—the Plagues—which forms the first part of this gigantic work?—who but he could have painted the loathing of the tainted water, the swarm of insects, the darkness, the smiting of the first-born of Egypt, "the rebuke of the Red Sea"?—and painted these pictures by no meretricious trickery, but by the use of his

art in its strictest forms—not its severest only; because a beauty, as of Heaven's presence, is always near, whether it take the form of pillar of cloud or pillar of fire? So equal was Handel to the widest sweep of variety within a small compass, wrought by one and the same means, ever claimed from artist! Then observe, which is almost more marvellous, what variety the master could throw into the expression of one and the same emotion. Who but he, after having shown the various Plagues in such stupendous forms, could have completed his work by a long-drawn hymn of thanksgiving, referring to only one of "the wonders in the land of Ham"—the last deliverance of the chosen people? The duett 'The Lord is a man of war,' and the two following choruses—the chorus 'And with the blast'—the grand song 'Thou didst blow'—the chorus 'The people shall hear'—the air 'Thou shalt bring them in'—the entire final scene of *Miriam* with her timbrel, and the people answering her, are virtually so many changes rung on the same theme, so far as text is concerned,—but with what an affluence of imagination did the master clothe the song of praise! Only on reflection do we find that the range of suggestion has been as narrow in the one case as it was perilously wide in the other. If the structure of the book and the climax attained to in its setting be considered, 'Israel' will indeed stand on the topmost pinnacle of musical power and grandeur.

The performance of Wednesday last was very good. Mr. Hullah's chorus was more masterly in its force and richer in its tone than we have yet heard it. The solos were taken by Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Palmer (who sang her difficult air in the first act very well, though perhaps a little too pompously), Messrs. E. Calkin, Thomas and Barnby. The orchestra was efficient, and the Hall was very full. Thus a new musical period (which will be largely devoted to the glorification of the greatest of musicians) was inaugurated, as it should be, "lustily and with good courage."

DRURY LANE.—The few nights more of Italian Opera at Drury Lane bid fair to lengthen into a short winter season—possibly to last for some weeks to come—since 'Les Huguenots' and 'Le Prophète' are in contemplation; and on Saturday last 'Don Giovanni' was given with a cast having some novelty, and one familiar feature claiming express notice. This was Madame Grisi's *Donna Anna*—the force and freshness of which were astounding: the best performance of the part by her that we have witnessed for many years past. The *Don* fell to the lot of M. Gassier, who in some respects is the best *Don Juan* that we have seen for many years on the stage: animated in action, if not as buoyantly high-bred as it might be—and possessing that weight, without dullness, of voice which the music requires; since, in spite of the assumption of the part by gentlemen of every register and every quality of tone, the music for Mozart's libertine hero loses more, when it is sung by any voice save one, and that one a brilliant *basso*, than almost any opera music in being. M. Gassier, however, has a tendency to sing sharp, which demands wary watching. We cannot praise Madame Gassier's *Zerlina*. It was correct as to the notes—but not gay—it was resolutely sung to the stalls, as from a concert orchestra, with far too slight reference to her play-fellows on the stage. The *Donna Elvira* of Madame Rudersdorff is the best we recollect, Mdlle. Lowe's not excepted. The part, being ungracious, is at best sung—rarely studied—by Italian ladies. In these things the German stage artists have less room and will to be capricious: be it right or wrong, they rarely withhold the utmost they can do. Madame Rudersdorff delivers the music firmly and with spirit,—her perpetual interference with the wicked *Don's* misdeeds is dramatically managed. That the character might be raised in meaning and colour, by treating *Donna Elvira* as a devotee, we have often fancied; but in that case the other characters, too, must be studied anew, so as to give due contrast without a solitary exaggeration. Herr Formes, on this occasion, has given up *Leporello* to Signor Rovère, and now enacts the *Commandatore*. Signor Lorini is an un-

interesting *Don Ottavio*, and Signor Gregorio works hard to be *Masetto*. The music halted more than once, where halt need not have been, had the conductor known it and his duties better. But the opera was received with rapture by a crowded house, and it would be well worth the treasury's while, we suspect, still to improve the performance by a few rehearsals; since, old though it be, how much newer is it than 'Norma,' 'Lucrezia,' 'Lucia,' 'Il Trovatore.'—On Wednesday, Mr. Tennant appeared, as tenor, in 'Don Pasquale.'

SADLER'S WELLS.—An important revival was placed on the stage on Saturday at this theatre,—the twenty-ninth, as it is stated on the bills, of the Shakspearian drama introduced by the present management to the audiences of Islington. 'The Taming of the Shrew,' with the Induction, was performed *in extenso*.—Mr. Phelps himself undertaking the portrait of *Christopher Sly*. An Asiatic air surrounds this little introductory romance, which is, as we know, of Oriental origin, as witness the adventures of Abou Hassan, and of Alo-e-din; but the immediate authority of Shakespeare and his predecessor was the historian Herodotus, who tells the story of the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good. A similar incident has been fixed on Charles the Fifth, and told of the Emperor by Richard Barckley, in his 'Discourse on the Felicity of Man.' Shakespeare has not, however, made so much of the Induction as had the preceding playwright from whom he borrowed the design, and has dismissed Sly long before the termination of the play; whereas in 'The Taming of a Shrew' he concludes the action, thus making a complete framework for it, and realizing the notion of a play within a play. But our greater bard has touched up the text, both of this Induction and the drama that follows, and set the stamp of his genius on the rude work of an elder hand. We have already pointed out Mr. Phelps's peculiar excellence in certain eccentric characters, and think that he has done well to add *Sly the Tinker* to *Bottom the Weaver* and *Mr. Justice Shallow*. The elaborate, minute touches bestowed by the artist on these small parts bring out the wonderful genius of the dramatist by whom they were created or improved. They subject them, as it were, to the action of a microscope, and reveal what were else invisible. The process, of course, would be tedious were it adopted on a large scale, but applied as it is to "these brief instances," it is instructive and suggestive. Mr. Phelps, at any rate, never appears so great an actor as when he is doing these little things. Here he is at once effective, original, and beyond critical censure. The whole play went off admirably; the more comic characters attaining full relief by the retention of the whole of the scenes and situations, so admirably distributed for the purposes of alternate repose and action. As now acted, we can estimate this production as a work of Elizabethan art; and the competent spectator will retire from the performance with a higher appreciation of the comedy, as such, than he can gain from a mere perusal, or the manner in which it is ordinarily acted.

ADELPHI.—A piece of more than ordinary splendour was produced on Monday. It is an extravaganza founded on the Parisian *ballet* by MM. St. Georges and Mazilier, of 'The Elves' and entitled after it, with the sub-appellation of 'The Statue Bride.' The power of the fairy-queen to give temporary vitality to a statue is assumed; but when this is effected, much is yet wanted. Speech, reason, grace, and love have yet to be imparted; and the admirer of the marble beauty is provided with four roses magically enabled to bestow the requisite gifts, with the provision, however, that each adds ten years to his own life. Taking them in the order that we have stated, instead of the reverse, the foolish Count grows too old to inspire the passion that he has empowered, and has a successful rival in a young and rich Prince. Many scenic effects are produced by the supposition that the power of the fairies to animate material objects ceases with the daylight, and thus at night the charming woman becomes again a marble figure.

Madame Celeste, in such an alternation, had precisely the elements with which her melo-dramatic art is familiar, and realized the poetic conception of the heroine with abundance of resources. All her powers of pantomime were called successively into play—now, in the first awakening to life now, in the first attempting to walk—now, in the unwonted exercise of speech—the dawning of intelligence and reason—the change from awkwardness to grace, and the incipient action of love. Each of these was admirably interpreted. The rhymed dialogue was good—the ballet-action exquisite; and the points expressed and implied were innumerable. The piece has been written by Mr. C. Selby, who himself performed the morbid and imbecile Count, who becomes older with every boon he grants, and survives the utility of his benefits. The poetic idea which serves for the basis of this piece, lends an air of fantastic elegance to the superstructure; and, though burlesque in its general action, the taste pertaining to the theme has banished from the text the intrusion of pun and parody. What particularly therefore strikes the spectator is, the beauty of the costumes, scenery and ballet-action; and for the rest, his mind is lapped in the dreamy state, to which the fancy may be excited by the visionary illustration of an argument purely ideal. The audience were evidently delighted, and the curtain descended to unusual plaudits.

PRINCESS'S.—On Tuesday a new piece was produced, entitled 'Our Wife; or, the Rose of Amiens': one remarkable for the elegance with which it has been produced. The period is that of Richelieu, and the elements of the plot are similar to those that compose the various fictions, dramatic and romantic, which have been planted on the Cardinal and his times. A young Count, who wishes to marry a mercer's daughter, but is deterred by a threat from his father, who objects to the lady's rank, of throwing the mercer into the Bastile, finds a friend in a Marquis, who is to die in three days by Richelieu's orders, and who proposes to marry himself the heroine, that, at the end of the appointed interval, she may take rank as his widow, and thus remove all family objections. Unfortunately for the Count, the Marquis is not killed, and the wedding stands good; besides, the wedded couple really love each other; wherefore the Count is put off with a fair cousin, and is apparently benefited by the change. All this is decidedly French in sentiment and situation. Messrs. Ryder and Fisher, with Miss C. Leclercq, supported the characters to which we have alluded; and Mr. Harley, as the mercer, was sufficiently humorous as an accessory: indeed, his acting conduced to the success of this trifling drama in a considerable degree. But the main accessories, and those that secured its triumph, were the magnificent costumes and other picturesque aids, by which the general action was lavishly illustrated.

STANDARD.—The 'Winter's Tale' was revived on Monday, when Miss Glyn commenced her usual engagement at this theatre, and was received in *Hermione* with favour.

HAYMARKET.—A version of 'Embrassons-nous, Folleville,' by M. Lébache and Lefranc, under the title of 'Family Failing,' was produced on Monday.—Mr. Buckstone and Miss Blanch Fane supporting the principal characters.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Prof. Sir F. Ouseley's lecture on Ancient Church Music, delivered at Oxford on the 12th, "the first of this term's course," may be accepted, we trust, as an emphatic sign that all men of sense, whether Churchmen, laymen, artists, or members of congregations, are beginning to weary of the fopperies which a set of persons—active in proportion to their want of taste and understanding—have endeavoured to fasten upon the ritual of the Church of England. While we have always owned that the interest of "the tones" and "chants" Ambrosian and Gregorian, must be recognized by every one who thinks on the subject;—while, under certain scenic conditions, and in conjunction with particular associations, their effect has a

solemn gravity (not wholly clear of grimness) which nothing more modern can produce,—from a very early period of the "movement" we have lost no opportunity of pointing out, that to attach any traditional sanctity to these rude old melodies was, virtually, to place barbarism on the altar; or else to claim for Art an origin which the boldest human definers of divine inspiration would shrink, we imagine, from ascribing to it. Further, we have as often called the attention of the wranglers and formalists to the certainty of all musical traditions being more or less impure. Supposing even the antique notation mastered, supposing it reduced into modern clefs and scales—then comes the question of extent to which expression is modified by manner of execution. To appreciate the range of such variety, it is sufficient to point to the Sistine *"Miserere"* at Rome—so magical there, so powerless in every other place. In short, whenever real inquiry is barred by formalism, faith must be laid aside for fanaticism, and art must perish; and with it, at no distant period, all true reverence. The above is mere recapitulation, so far as the *Athenæum* is concerned; but we are glad to see that others who have a voice potential are stirring in the question—preaching healthy action as better than palsy—justifying the right to inquire, on the one hand, and decrying, on the other, the substitution of hearsay sympathies for true knowledge. The concluding words of the Rev. Sir F. Ouseley's lecture, time and place considered, carry no small weight with them. "Would," said he, in taking leave of his audience, "that those men in our own day, who love to praise Gregorian music to the exclusion of all other, would in this particular take example by St. Gregory himself, and strive rather to devote the best they can find to the service of the Church—the best, and not the oldest—and let them remember, too, that those only are qualified to judge what is best, who have themselves mastered the art in all its phases, and studied it in all its developments."

The Saturday Winter Concerts at the Crystal Palace have set in, with Madame Rudersdorff as principal singer.

M. Jullien's principal instrumental novelty this November seems to be a *fantasia* on themes from 'La Traviata.' The engagement of Miss Hayes has come to an end, having been, we are bound to say, entirely successful so far as the audience was concerned. In her place M. Jullien has now Miss Dolby and *Sigñor Millardi*. Has this gentleman sung as Mr. Millard in less august localities? If he has, why could he not follow the example of Mr. Sims Reeves, who even, we believe, when he has sung at Court, has not eked a plain English name out with a pair of "i's" in order to seem genteel?

Formally announcing its adoption of the great Handel Scheme, which was sketched in the letter of which we spoke this day week, the *Sacred Harmonic Society*, when putting forth the prospectus of its operations during the season about to commence, also enters into some details of what subscribers to its concerts may look for,—stating that "the Committee hope to perform four (if not five) of Handel's *Oratorios*, 'Elijah,' 'Creation,' 'Eli,' 'Lobgesang,' Mozart's 'Requiem,' 'Athalie,' and an adaptation of Rossini's 'Stabat Mater.' The Committee are particularly anxious to call attention to the *Oratorios* of Handel during the coming season—a course which they conceive will be acceptable to the subscribers, from the interest which will be excited by the great Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace in the early Summer of the coming year."

A society projected in Germany for the publication of a complete edition of Handel's Works has been already announced in our columns. The *Prospectus* is now before us, and suggests some comment, which, since the matter is not a pressing one, it may be judicious to postpone.

The news of the week from France is not important. The temperate strain in which musical critics speak of Signor Biletti's 'Rose of Florence,' confirms us in imagining that the elegant composer of 'White Magic' has mistaken his way, or mis-calculated his strength, in presenting himself at

the *Grand Opéra*. The production of the work, however, may introduce its composer to the other musical theatres of Paris. An opera (we imagine on a slight scale) by M. Membré is about to be given at the *Grand Opéra*,—also M. Auber's 'Marco Spada,' transformed by M. Auber's self from an opera into a *ballet*. Madame Deligne-Lautera is engaged at the *Grand Opéra*. At the Italian Opera that dismal opera 'I Due Foscari' has been revived, with Signora Cattinari as *prima donna*; for *Doge*, Signor Corsi, who is described as giving a serious and passionate rendering of the part and the music; for tenor, Signor Ballestra, a gentleman with a strong and musical voice, managed (say the papers) in the modern Italian fashion;—which, with us, means not managed at all.

An orchestral performer, not engaged at St. Martin's Hall this winter, has been unwise enough to print and to circulate a correspondence on the causes of his non-engagement. In forbearance to one who may have committed a mistake from ignorance, we will merely acknowledge his letter.

MISCELLANEA

A New Calculating Machine.—The French *Moniteur* gives some interesting particulars of a new calculating machine—from which we extract the following passages:—"M. Thomas, of Colmar, has lately made the finishing improvements in the calculating machine, called the arithmometer, at which he has been working for upwards of thirty years. Pascal and Leibnitz, in the seventeenth century, and Diderot at a later period, endeavoured to construct a machine which might serve as a substitute for human intelligence in the combination of figures; but their efforts failed. M. Thomas's arithmometer may be used without the least trouble or possibility of error, not only for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but also for much more complex operations, such as the extraction of the square root, involution, the resolution of triangles, &c. A multiplication of eight figures by eight others is made in eighteen seconds; a division of sixteen figures by eight figures, in twenty-four seconds; and in one minute and a quarter one can extract the square root of sixteen figures, and also prove the accuracy of the calculation. The arithmometer adapts itself to every sort of combination. As an instance of the wonderful extent of its powers, we may state that it can furnish in a few seconds products amounting to 999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999. A marvellous number, comparable to the infinite multitude of stars which stud the firmament, or the particles of dust which float in the atmosphere. The working of this instrument is, however, most simple. To raise or lower a nut-screw, to turn a winch a few times, and, by means of a button, to slide off a metal plate from left to right, or from right to left, is the whole secret. Instead of simply reproducing the operations of man's intelligence, the arithmometer relieves that intelligence from the necessity of making the operations. Instead of repeating responses dictated to it, this instrument instantaneously dictates the proper answer to the man who asks it a question. It is not matter producing material effects, but matter which thinks, reflects, reasons, calculates, and executes all the most difficult and complicated arithmetical operations with a rapidity and infallibility which defies all the calculators in the world. The arithmometer is, moreover, a simple instrument, of very little volume and easily portable. It is already used in many great financial establishments, where considerable economy is realized by its employment. It will soon be considered as indispensable, and be as generally used as a clock, which was formerly only to be seen in palaces, and is now in every cottage."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—K.—H. R.—W. J. R.—H. A. H.—J. M.—received.

E. R.—We cannot undertake to say generally which is the best Grammar, Dictionary, or Cookery Book. We express our opinions in our reviews.

47, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON, Nov. 20, 1856.

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